

US seizes first Iraq-bound ship since embargo

Bus convoy of 150 women reaches Iraq

BY MICHAEL KNIFE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE convoy of British women and children that left Kuwait before dawn yesterday was last night driving through the deserts of Iraq towards Baghdad, while more Westerners flew from the Iraqi capital to Amman.

As the convoy crossed the border into Iraq, a Virgin Atlantic Boeing 747 arrived in Amman carrying almost 30 tons of food and medical supplies for the thousands of refugees stranded at the Iraq-Jordanian border. About 150 Britons are expected to fly back to Gatwick on the aircraft today.

American Marines meanwhile, surrounded an Iraqi freighter for the first time, and Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, endorsed the use of force to defeat President Saddam Hussein.

The USS Goldsborough challenged the freighter Zamboula, carrying tea from Sri Lanka, as it approached the Gulf. It refused to stop and was boarded by Marines before being escorted to Oman.

Mr Kinnock told the TUC yesterday that President Saddam's invasion of Kuwait was sudden and brutal. "Unrelenting pressure must be sustained under the terms of the UN resolutions, and if force is necessary to implement that policy, that too should have the authority of the UN."

The 150 women and 156 children, who left Kuwait underbooked their journey, without

any diplomatic presence and without a military escort. William Waldegrave, the Foreign Office minister, said that some of the women were understood to be experienced expatriates who had been helping throughout the crisis.

The Iraqi military authorities in Kuwait made no attempt to interfere with their departure, but sources in

any diplomatic presence and without a military escort. William Waldegrave, the Foreign Office minister, said that some of the women were understood to be experienced expatriates who had been helping throughout the crisis.

Whitehall said it should be assumed that when they reached Baghdad they would be "under Iraqi supervision".

The Britons, travelling in seven hired coaches and two private vehicles, driven by Kuwaitis, were expected to take anything from 12 to 26 hours to make the journey of more than 500 miles in temperatures of up to 115°F. They were on a metal road passing through desert and marshland, but it was believed to have been churned up in recent weeks by military vehicles and the convoy was likely to face numerous checkpoints and breakdowns.

Another coach, carrying 11 Britons, 12 Aussies, 11 Irishwomen and a Canadian, including 12 children, set off from Kuwait yesterday shortly after the British convoy.

British diplomats were expected to meet the convoy on the outskirts of Baghdad, since they have been restricted from venturing any further than that. The embassy had booked rooms in three Baghdad hotels but it was possible that they would be taken to the Mansour Meila hotel, where a number of Britons have been detained.

The Iraqi authorities have said that women and children are "free to leave" and the British ambassador, Harold Walker, hopes to get them back fairly quickly. Arrangements were being made to place the group on flights out of Baghdad either directly to London or to Jordan as soon as possible.

A group of 40 British women and children already in Baghdad and equipped with exit visas were expected to be

accommodated on an Iraqi Airways Boeing 727 chartered by the United States embassy which was scheduled to leave last night for Jordan. The Foreign Office estimates that fewer than 2,000 Britons, mostly men, are now left in Kuwait.

Another 18 British men have been seized by the Iraqi military authorities in Kuwait, taking the number detained there to 40. It is assumed they have been taken to sensitive installations, such as oil refineries and factories.

Meanwhile, Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic jumbo jet was expected to fly 150 Britons and 250 Egyptians home tomorrow. Mr Branson said his flight to Amman yesterday could be the first of several and he appealed to British companies to contribute supplies for future trips.

"King Hussein has given us a list of things he needs, which is frightening," he said.

King Hussein said in Italy yesterday that he planned to meet President Saddam in Baghdad in a renewed attempt to find an Arab solution before the US-Soviet summit in Helsinki on Sunday.

That summit was described yesterday by Edward Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, as "a major milestone on the road towards resolving the crisis".

The White House meanwhile announced that President Bush would ask Congress to forgive some \$7 billion in debts owed by Egypt because of the hardship the country was suffering as a result of the sanctions against Iraq.

Unarmed bus convoy of about 300 British women and children moves from Kuwait to Baghdad. Iraq says a well-known British man is a "people's court".

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Saudis put their faith in desert landscape

FROM NICHOLAS BEESTON IN HAFR AL-BAYEN

MAJOR Yacoub Zamel surveyed the landscape of sand and gravel that stretches beyond the horizon and declared confidently yesterday that this would be Saddam Hussein's graveyard.

He was not boasting about the fighting ability of the 30,000 Saudi and Arab troops who make up the first line of defence against Iraq, but instead he was putting his faith in one of the most hostile environments in the world.

"Just as Hitler and Napoleon were defeated by the Russian winter, so Saddam's army will perish here," the Saudi helicopter pilot said.

Normally the tranquillity of the desert is only broken by the odd flock of goats, a solitary camel, or a bedouin in a pick-up truck, instinctively picking their way through the maze of desert tracks for the one that leads to water. Today the horizon is dotted with the hazy silhouettes of Saudi tank positions, the tents of Egyptian Rangers, and a column of Omani infantry making its way in Land-Rovers to a new camp.

At the headquarters of a Saudi mechanised infantry brigade nobody seems to much of a hurry to fight a war and the prospect of imminent attack by a force five times larger located only 50 miles away seems remote. "No-one fights a war in this heat," Colonel Malik Suleiman, in charge of logistics for the Saudi forces, said. His main concern is getting water to the men on the front line.

"I met Saddam when he came to visit us here two months ago to thank us for our support during the Gulf war," he recalled. "I did not trust him then and I certainly don't now. But if he wants to attack he will wait for the autumn, by which time we will be more ready."

His fellow officers certainly

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Mr Scargill at a café at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, yesterday

Scargill in climbdown on Soviet miners' £1m

By KEVIN EASON

ARTHUR Scargill faces the embarrassment of flying to Paris on Monday to retrieve £1 million held out of reach of the National Union of Mineworkers to foreign banks for more than five years.

Mr Scargill, the NUM president, and Peter Heathfield, the general secretary, will accompany the four-man enquiry team that has spent two months trying to trace millions of pounds alleged to belong to the union.

The investigators say that they have now accounted for nearly £3 million said to be missing and cleared the two senior NUM leaders of malpractice. Legal action against Mr Scargill and Mr Heathfield will now be dropped, according to Henry Richardson, Nottinghamshire area NUM president and spokesman for the investigators.

However, their report says that there is now no doubt that £1 million donated by Soviet miners, held in the accounts of the Paris-based International Mineworkers' Organisation,

was intended to help the 220,000 British miners engaged in the national pits strike of 1984-85.

The NUM president has consistently claimed that the money sent during the strike was for the benefit of miners internationally, which was why it went to the IMO.

The investigators and the two officials will go to Paris to tell Alain Simon, general secretary of the IMO, to transfer the money, with interest, to NUM accounts. That will force an embarrassing climbdown for Mr Scargill, who, as IMO president must sanction the transfer of money effectively denied to British miners since the strike.

The inquiry team - Mr Richardson, Gordon Butler, Idwal Morgan and George Rees - wants to have the issue settled before a meeting of the union's national executive on September 13, which will be given details of the investigation.

Mr Richardson said yes-

terday that Mr Scargill was "in the clear". He added: "There were very good reasons for Arthur Scargill believing that [Soviet] money was meant for international purposes."

"There has never been any missing money. We have discovered that the money donated by the Russians belongs to the NUM, and Mr Scargill has accepted that."

Mr Scargill insisted that there was no conflict of interest and that if leaders of Soviet miners made it clear that their money was for the NUM, it would be handed over.

The hapless Mr Polozkov then had to listen to a member of the Moscow delegation introduce a petition, signed by 162 delegates, objecting to the draft policy programme and calling for it to be scrapped and rewritten. The programme was described as a collection of clichés and generalities which offered no remedy for the current turmoil in the country.

One well-known radical, the editor of the weekly *Moscow News*, Yegor Yakovlev, re-

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Russian congress berates party leader

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

MORE than 2,500 demoralised communists from all over the Russian Federation gathered in the Kremlin yesterday for the second part of their party congress and immediately heard calls for Ivan Polozkov, their recently elected leader, to resign.

Mr Polozkov, a conservative in the present Soviet political spectrum, is blamed for a sharp increase in the number of people leaving the Communist party, and confusion about the role of the recently established Russian party.

He sat in the centre of the platform, dwarfed by the powerful troika of President Gorbachev, Nikolai Ryzhkov, the prime minister, and Anatoli Lukyayev, chairman of the Supreme Soviet, sitting to his right and conferring with each other continually.

Clearly lacking confidence, Mr Polozkov, who has become an object of scorn for party reformists, declared the second part of the congress open and outlined a programme that would postpone most important decisions until a further meeting "in the first half of next year".

As soon as he sat down a flurry of delegates took the microphone to demand his resignation, citing objections to his leadership from their local party branches. "Your election was an over-hasty decision," said a delegate from the Siberian autonomous region of Komi. "And you have been rejected by your own constituents," he went on, alluding to the election at the weekend of former KGB general, Oleg Kalugin, to take Mr Polozkov's vacant parliamentary seat.

Mr Kalugin, who is considered a radical and has been vilified by the KGB hierarchy for allegedly revealing state secrets, campaigned on an anti-Polozkov platform.

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Leading article, page 11

Oxford's rugby scrum

Oxford University Rugby Club has become engaged in an internal dispute which has remarkable similarities to the 1987 Boat Race mutiny. Once again the controversy concerns the question of who should run the club.

The result is that Oxford may play the entire term, including the match against Cambridge in December, without five leading Blues, four of whom are internationals. Page 42

Fire appeal

An appeal to finance the rebuilding of the centre of Totnes, Devon, was launched by the mayor yesterday after a fire destroyed the East Gate and surrounding Elizabethan buildings. Page 3

Picture loss

Many classic programmes from television early days have been lost. Now attempts are being made to build a comprehensive television archive. Page 14

CBI initiative

A report by CBI economists urges that the pound should be fixed in the European exchange rate mechanism now at a high level as part of a tough long-term plan to eradicate Britain's embedded inflation psychology. Page 21

Degree courses

A list of vacancies for degree courses in law, business administration, architecture, creative art, agriculture and mass communications at British universities, polytechnics and colleges is published today. Vacancies in physical sciences, medicine, dentistry and biological sciences will be published tomorrow. Page 37

Degrees from Belfast City and Buckingham universities are published today. Page 36

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Mandela denounces army after new mob rampage

FROM GAVIN BELL, JOHANNESBURG

TROOPS opened fire indiscriminately early days have been lost. Now attempts are being made to build a comprehensive television archive. Page 14

President de Klerk appealed for peace and Nelson Mandela expressed outrage during separate visits to the strife-torn areas, and the conflict which claimed more than 500 lives last month appeared to be spiralling out of control.

Renewed fighting between Zulu supporters of Inkatha and Xhosa-speaking residents who broadly support the African National Congress flared

late on Monday night. At least ten people were killed during the night in three townships, and by midday yesterday the toll was nearing 40. The worst clashes were reported in Sebokeng, west of Johannesburg, where witnesses said Inkatha warriors stabbed and bludgeoned about 20 people to death in a workers' hostel, and troops later opened fire on a crowd which had gathered around the building.

A photographer, said he went towards the hostel compound at about 4 am. "As I came in, the army was also entering the area. They took up positions and cocked their

guns. I thought maybe they wanted to scare the people. The people came towards them waving their hands, saying 'peace, we are not fighting'. Some of them even sat down. All of a sudden there was shooting. Many of the people ran, but some of them fell."

Mr Mandela, the ANC deputy president, made a scathing attack on the army after visiting the scene. "Members of Inkatha, as well as the army, must take full responsibility for having taken lives without any real provocation," he said.

Strife deepens, page 7

'No favours' for unions

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A FURTHER indignity was suffered by Arthur Scargill yesterday at the TUC conference in Blackpool when Neil Kinnock turned his words against him to insist that the unions can expect no favours from a future Labour government.

Twenty four hours after the president of the National Union of Mineworkers had publicly demanded special privileges for the unions, the Labour leader sought to erase

the image of a party in hock to the unions by maintaining that its purpose was not to do favours for its friends but to ensure justice for all.

Mr Kinnock also rejected Mr Scargill's claim that TUC and Labour leaders were betraying their principles by embracing much of the government's employment legislation.

Scargill test, page 2
TUC Conference, page 6

Button-conscious early birds get a bargain

By NICK NUTTALL TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

ALTHOUGH Britain woke up this week to operator alarm calls at double the former price (from £1.20 to £2.47), nearly half the country can sleep easy. For a mere 11p they can programme their own calls, provided they can understand the instructions.

In a week when British Telecom prices have risen across the board by 5.3 per cent, BT says the steep rise in operator-assisted calls reflects more accurate pricing, an end of cross subsidies and the cost of operators having to work unsociable hours. The company also blames customers who, having booked a call, let the phone ring without answering and avoid paying the fee.

BT is at pains to point out that if a customer is in the 47 per cent of digitally-connected homes and busi-

nesses nationwide, the handset can be transformed, using a series of predetermined codes, from a static piece of equipment into an automatic, 24-hour alarm clock of exacting precision.

What is needed is a magpie's enthusiasm for keeping leaflets, a solicitor's eye for the small print and a few minutes mastering a modern, multi-frequencing telephone and its array of star and gate buttons which allow the customer access to a digital exchange's computer and synthesised voice.

"On the digital network, as part of the Star Service package, you can do your own reminder call which costs 11.5 pence plus VAT. It is a lot more practical and does not tie up our operator in unsocial hours," BT said.

Customers simply pick up the receiver and press star 55 star followed by the time they want the call using the number buttons on the phone's tone pad. To

check the alarm customers press star gate 55 gate and the exchange's synthesised voice gives the alarm time.

Cancelling the wake-up call requires pressing gate 55 gate.

The advantages of this cheap rate service will be familiar to those customers of BT who are dependent on the wake-up call as a back-up to the bedside alarm clock.

However, a poll of staff on *The Times* in London, a group which would like to consider itself reasonably well-informed, revealed that no-one was aware of the cheaper service despite being heavy users of wake-up calls.

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A-level mid-course assessment may be made compulsory

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A-LEVEL students could be subject to compulsory mid-course assessment, under proposals put forward yesterday by the government's examination advisers. Up to 40 per cent of marks could be awarded by schools and colleges. Course assessment has been the focus of controversy over GCSE standards.

Draft principles for the reform of A-levels and AS-levels were produced by the School Examinations and Assessment Council at the request of John MacGregor, the education secretary. If accepted, the changes will be introduced in 1994, with the first awards made in 1996.

The 33 principles recommended by the council constitute the biggest revision of A-levels since their introduction. Philip Halsey, the council's chairman and chief executive, said, however, that the intention was to maintain or to enhance standards. The recommendations are also designed to ease the transition to sixth-form work for pupils attempting A-levels after the less traditional approach found in GCSE syllabuses.

Sixth-form pupils would be encouraged to broaden their studies through a combination of A-levels and AS-levels, which would be retained at the present standard. The council wants students to study five subjects, rather than the present three, and to encourage schools and colleges to extend the curriculum rather than simply offering the same subjects at both levels.

The council is also discussing with the National Council for Vocational Qualifications

the possibility of pupils transferring credits between A-level and vocational courses in particular subjects, because it is concerned that students who fail A-levels have nothing to show for the progress that they have made in specific areas. The transfer idea is likely to be tried initially in business studies and economics, science, English and modern languages.

All A-level and AS-level students would be assessed on three of the core skills identified by the government, which are: communications; problem-solving and personal, or study, abilities. The draft principles encourage the development of cross-curricular themes and a variety of teaching methods.

The council says that assessment should enable candidates to demonstrate achievement at interim stages of their course, as well as at the end. The assessment might be of essay or project work and could be marked internally or by examination boards, as long as school or college assessment did not account for more than 40 per cent of the final award.

About one-quarter of A-level syllabuses include some element of mid-course assessment at present, with between 10 and 40 per cent of marks awarded. The rest rely on the final examinations. The examination boards that offer course work options have registered big increases in applications.

Schools, colleges and local education authorities have been given until the end of next month to respond to the proposals. The council intends to publish its final proposals on the reforms early next year.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, welcomed the draft principles as a brave attempt to achieve the impossible in reforming the curriculum for students aged between 16 and 19 within pre-determined constraints, and welcomed the link with vocational qualifications and the attempt to ensure continuity with the GCSE. He said, however, that the changes would increase the workload for teachers and pupils.

Great care must be taken not to create an over-elaborate, over-expensive and over-examined system which ultimately benefits only the examinations industry.

Jonathan Aylett, a partner with the solicitors' firm Michelson Hughes, which has used a room above the tower for more than 100 years, said: "There was nothing we could do but watch it burn. All we have been able to retrieve is some of the records which were in fireproof cabinets."

Totnes's Elizabethan buildings date back to a time of prosperity when the port town sent cloth and tin along the river Dart. In later years, wealth and population declined and most of the buildings were left largely intact.

The town centre was yesterday closed while police and firemen looked for clues and demolished walls left in a dangerous condition. Bob Murch, the town's mayor, has launched two appeal funds, one to raise money for those made homeless and another for restoration and rebuilding work.

Mr Murch paid tribute to the firemen who prevented flames spreading to other buildings in the conservation area. "The main street is a

funnel. If the fire brigade had not been so prompt it could all have gone up like a torch," he said.

Richard Butterfield, the town clerk, said: "Everybody is devastated. Part of the history of Totnes has gone. It is a disaster." Harry Thomas, who leads guided walks around the town, added: "The jewel of the town has been destroyed. It is a terrible blow. The arch was Totnes."

Victoria Foster, a local historian, said she wept when she saw the damage. "It's like losing a member of the family. Every picture you see of the town shows the arch. Even if they rebuild it, it will not be the same."

Moves to rebuild the damaged area, including the East Gate, have already begun. Frank Palmer, the chief executive of South Hams district council, has contacted English Heritage and the environment department. Officials from

English Heritage will visit Totnes today to inspect the damage and discuss what grants might be available towards restoration.

"It is going to be a big job and we do not yet know how much demolition is going to be necessary," Mr Palmer said. "I cannot guess the cost but it must run into six figures. We have had five other fires in Totnes in the past four years. It is always a hazard where there are old buildings with lots of timber, lath and plaster walls, and little fire insulation between them. Our objective will be to restore the buildings in the most authentic and faithful manner possible."

On the advice of police, yesterday's traditional Elizabethan market was cancelled, although the Totnes carnival children's fancy dress procession went ahead using a different route.

Leading article, page 11



The centre of Totnes, which was devastated by fire early yesterday. The Devon town's East Gate, seen in its former glory (below), was destroyed and only one supporting arch remains. Many of the buildings from the town's prosperous Elizabethan age were gutted

Fire destroys the heart of Elizabethan market town

By ROBIN YOUNG

FIRE yesterday destroyed the centrepiece of Totnes, Devon, one of the best preserved Elizabethan market towns in Britain. The town's East Gate was reduced to bare stones and adjoining listed buildings were gutted.

The fire started shortly after 1am and raged for three hours. About 100 firemen were in action at the height of the blaze, pumping water from the river Dart to supplement supplies from street hydrants.

The fire is thought to have started in a former ballroom in an office next to the East Gate. The cause is not known.

The East Gate, known locally as "the arch", spans the town's main street. Its foundations are thought to be medieval, possibly Saxon. The Elizabethan timber superstructure was remodelled in 1837, when it was fitted with Gothic battlements and a cupola. The arch, together with its clock, is used as the logo for Totnes's tourist brochures.

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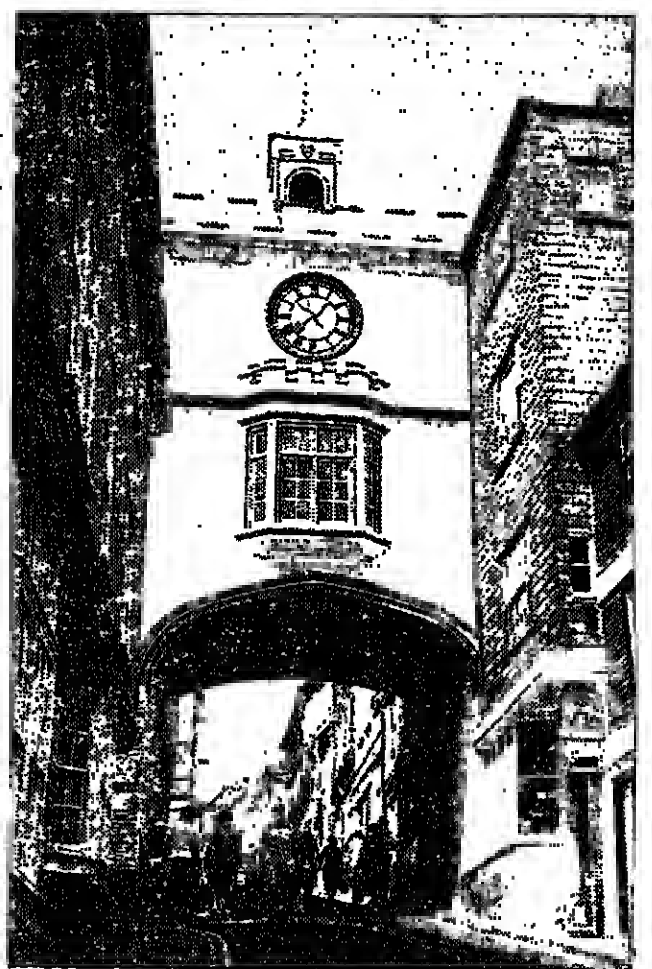
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Leading article, page 11

Court told how solicitor's team used bribes for legal aid work

By FRANCES CRIB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A SOLICITOR headed a legal team that lured out bribes for extra work and swindled the legal aid fund in a "gross abuse of public money", the High Court was told yesterday.

One of the team bribed telephoneists at an emergency call service with perfume and gifts to obtain work from the duty solicitor scheme. As well as cash bribes, another telephoneist was offered a curry dinner in an attempt to share extra work, the court was told.

The duty solicitor scheme is run by the Legal Aid Board to provide solicitors for people arrested by police, via an emergency telephone link. However, the law firm McGregor Rose-Smith, led by the sole partner Brian McGregor Rose-Smith, was not registered to work in the scheme.

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Saham Toney, in Norfolk, and two law clerks he employed, Margaret Sinclair, 39, of Leyton, and Cyril Wayne, 57, of Bford, London, pleaded not guilty to conspiring to defraud the legal aid fund between March 1 and June 7 last year.

Two operators at Air Call telephone services, Linda McEwan, 42, of Watford, and Kathleen Hill, 34, of Nottingham, London, have also denied the charge.

John Bevan, for the prosecution, said the telephoneists at Air Call were responsible for contacting solicitors on the Law Society rota when contacted by police needing someone to represent arrested suspects.

This case unfortunately concerns a gross abuse of public money and of the public themselves by lawyers," he said. "The idea

which worked for a few months until someone spotted it, was that there was money to be made out of a scheme that existed to ensure that people arrested by police have a solicitor to represent them at a police station."

"As a result, people who had been arrested and were entitled to an approved representative were in fact represented by unapproved and unqualified persons who then proceeded to fiddle the claims for that service."

He said that the swindle went on for three months with the three getting work they were not entitled to from the telephoneists, contacted by police. However, another clerk who met Sinclair at a police station tumbled to the scheme, Mr Bevan explained.

The trial before Judge Quarren Evans continues.

Trull claimed Henry VII gave relief from poll tax

Mr Trull was found to be in contempt, he could be arrested under warrant and jailed.

Neighbours said yesterday that Mr Trull had been seen at his bungalow at Lerryn, near Lostwithiel, for the past six weeks and was believed to be in the Irish republic.

He resigned as clerk to the stannary parliament last week.

The Department of Trade and Industry intervened to stop Mr Trull trading in June

after it became clear that the company had been set up under stannary law, which meant that investors would be liable for any debts it incurred.

Robert Butler, the Bristol accountant appointed receiver, said: "Basically the order of the court was that Mr Trull would supply the receiver with all the information in his possession about the company and its assets. He has not complied with that order in any way."

Mr Butler said: "I saw Mr Trull at the original hearing, but I have not spoken to or seen him since."

In addition to the charge that he had placed investors' money at risk by failing to set up the company under English law, Mr Trull also faces allegations of trading as an unregistered investment adviser.

The Department of the Environment said it had made it clear from the outset that Mr Trull's scheme gave no immunity from the community charge.

"There was never any question of anyone being exempted from the poll tax as a result of investing in this company," a spokesman said.

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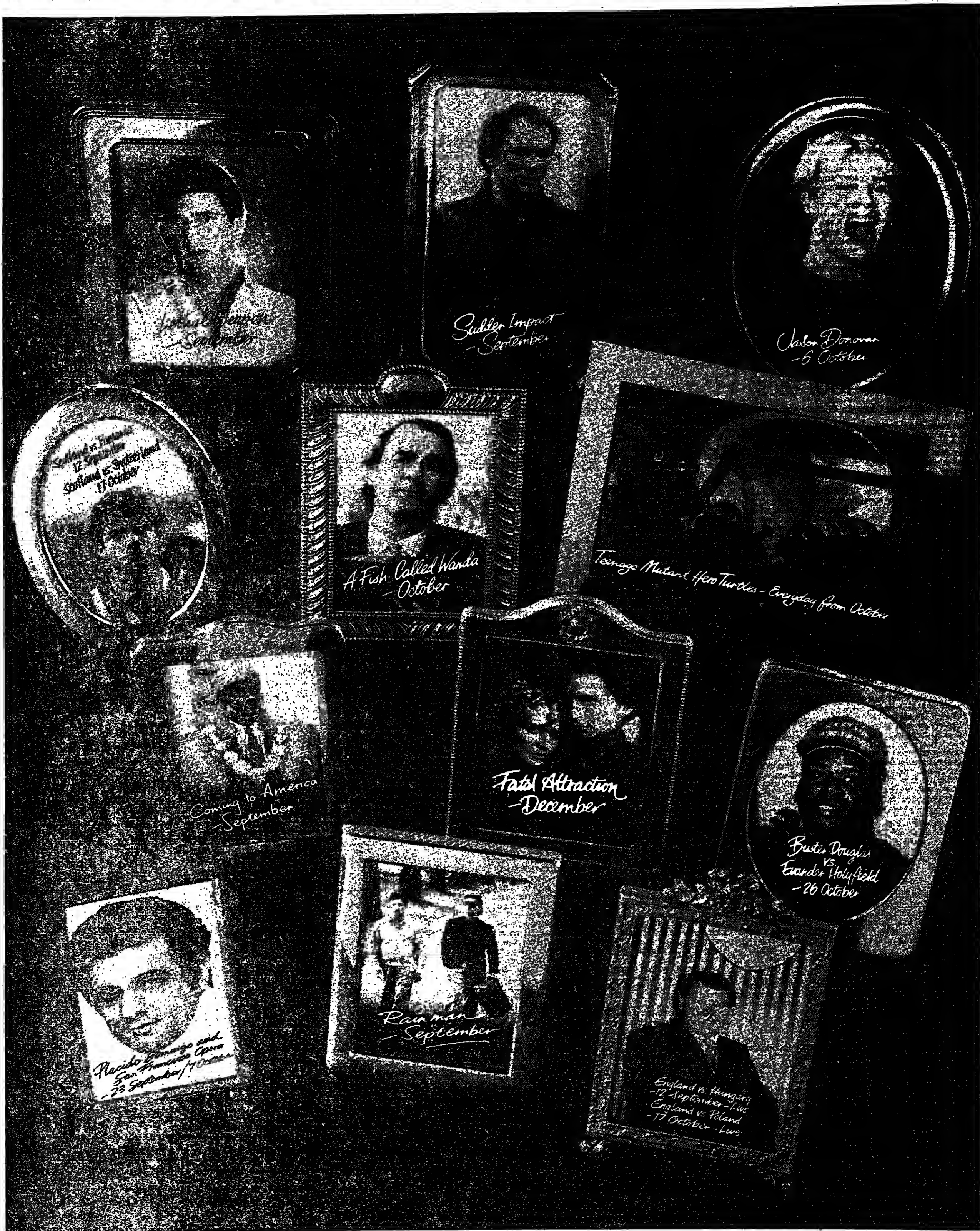
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Police chief sues over sex bias

By RONALD FAUX

THE highest ranking police woman in Britain yesterday began an action claiming that sex discrimination has denied her promotion.

Alison Halford, aged 50, assistant chief constable of Merseyside, is taking Northamptonshire police authority, Sir Philip Myers,



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Pioneers explore the risks and rewards of a reformed NHS



Tennyson: matching district services to health needs

ALTHOUGH the government has persistently refused to run a pilot scheme for the NHS reforms, a regional health authority has decided to test the changes six months before they apply to the whole country. On October 1, a full internal market will start to operate throughout the eight districts under the East Anglian regional health authority.

Real money will follow the patient, operations will be priced, contracts will be made between district health authorities and hospitals for inpatient admissions, and managers will determine the care needs of their areas. Only self-governing hospitals and GP budgets will be delayed until April.

Hospitals will, for the first time, compete for patients. Those that attract business will, in theory, have extra funds for services. Those deserted by patients will

Local health officials are to hold a trial run of NHS reforms that the government refuses to test. As Jill Sherman reports, hopes of matching services to needs are combined with fears of repeating the chaos of a previous experiment

have to improve quality or lower costs, or both, to avoid collapse.

East Anglian has pioneered the internal market on a small scale for more than a year, with three districts, Peterborough, Huntingdon and Cambridge, placing contracts with each other. In April, the region ran a simulated exercise to test the internal market to its limit. The three-day simulation ended in chaos, with the market effectively crashing. Hospitals, reduced to emergency admissions only, had to lower quality to keep to budgets, and community units were swamped with patients discharged early.

The region is determined that

such a breakdown should not occur in reality. A group has been set up to co-ordinate agencies that will be involved in buying health care, such as GPs, community nurses and social services staff.

Managers are also ensuring strict quality standards in each contract. These stipulate maximum waiting times for first appointments and in outpatient departments. In addition, the region is determined to improve health outcomes. Specific targets are being written into contracts, such as reducing perinatal mortality rates, lowering heart disease deaths and improving mobility in the elderly. One district has been

told to reduce its perinatal mortality rate from over seven deaths per 1,000 births to six deaths by 1994.

Barry Tennyson, consultant in public health medicine for Cambridge district health authority, says that, for the first time, districts will be able to match services to health needs. By analysing Cambridge's health record, Mr Tennyson has decided that more money should be spent on community services for the elderly, on patients with serious head injuries and on stroke patients. He also intends to invest resources in health promotion to "get middle-aged executives to jog regularly and eat proper diets".

Most deals being struck between districts and hospitals are three-year rolling contracts that can be renegotiated annually. Where possible, contract prices are based on actual specialty costs, with, for

example, a hip operation at £2,500, including a ten-day stay.

East Anglian managers have opted for cost volume contracts, where the contract price is related to workload, which are more specific than the block contracts advocated by the health department. The hospital agrees to do, say, 300 hip operations for a district authority at a fixed price to cover its overheads. If there are more patients, the hospital will do the extra work at marginal costs.

Stephen Thornton, the region's NHS review co-ordinator, said: "In the first three years, there will only be minor changes... but in five or ten years, the pattern of services, influenced by consumer choice, may be radically different. It will be far more community-orientated, with less hospital provision and more day surgery." He is, however, sceptical about early

improvements in local waiting lists, and sees a problem in the paucity of information available for contracting. "In many cases, the costs will not be as accurate as they could be and there is a danger that the whole exercise will become discredited," he said.

David Asley, general manager at Addenbrooke's hospital, Cambridge, is worried about possible changes in referral patterns. "If we lose 1 per cent of our business, we will be in trouble," he said. Addenbrooke's will have to compete against London teaching hospitals to keep its crucial 20 per cent of referrals from outside its region.

Mr Tennyson said: "The reforms are not a panacea for solving all the problems in the health service, but we will be a bit more certain about what it is that we are buying with the limited resources we have."

Unnecessary X-rays blamed for up to 250 deaths a year

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

UNNECESSARY X-rays cause between 100 and 250 cancer deaths a year that could be avoided if all hospitals adopted the best available practices, a report published today estimates.

The Royal College of Radiologists and the National Radiological Protection Board set out 21 measures that would cut radiation exposures from diagnostic X-rays by almost half without affecting patient care.

At least 20 per cent of X-ray procedures were "clinically unhelpful", the report says, while others were unnecessarily repeated or carried out at too high a power. Standards varied widely, with the best hospitals administering only one twentieth of the dose given by the worst ones for identical examinations.

By eliminating pointless X-

rays, reducing the number of films taken per examination, reducing the time taken for certain procedures, and ensuring that the minimum necessary power is used for each exposure, the total dose could be reduced by about 7,500 man sieverts a year.

By comparison, the fallout from nuclear weapons testing provides 550 man sieverts a year, while the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power station in the Soviet Union produced 2,100 man sieverts in the first year (much less now) and discharges from nuclear power plants generate 30 man sieverts a year.

Barbara MacGibbon, assistant director of the protection board and a member of the working party that produced the report, said yesterday that as long as X-ray examinations were well conducted, the bene-

fits would invariably outweigh the risks. The wide variation in the average dose in different hospitals, however, indicated that the potential existed for reducing doses without affecting patient management.

The working party is critical of routine chest X-rays and of X-rays used to diagnose lower back pain. Women under the age of 50 should be discouraged from breast screening unless there were symptoms of disease, or their mother or sister had suffered from cancer of the breast. Computerised tomography, which delivers particularly high doses, should be used with discretion.

Barrie Wall, secretary of the working party, said that the cost of the measures recommended would be very little. They would mostly pay for themselves in decreased wear and tear on equipment, without taking account of the £100 million the extra cancer deaths were estimated to cost.

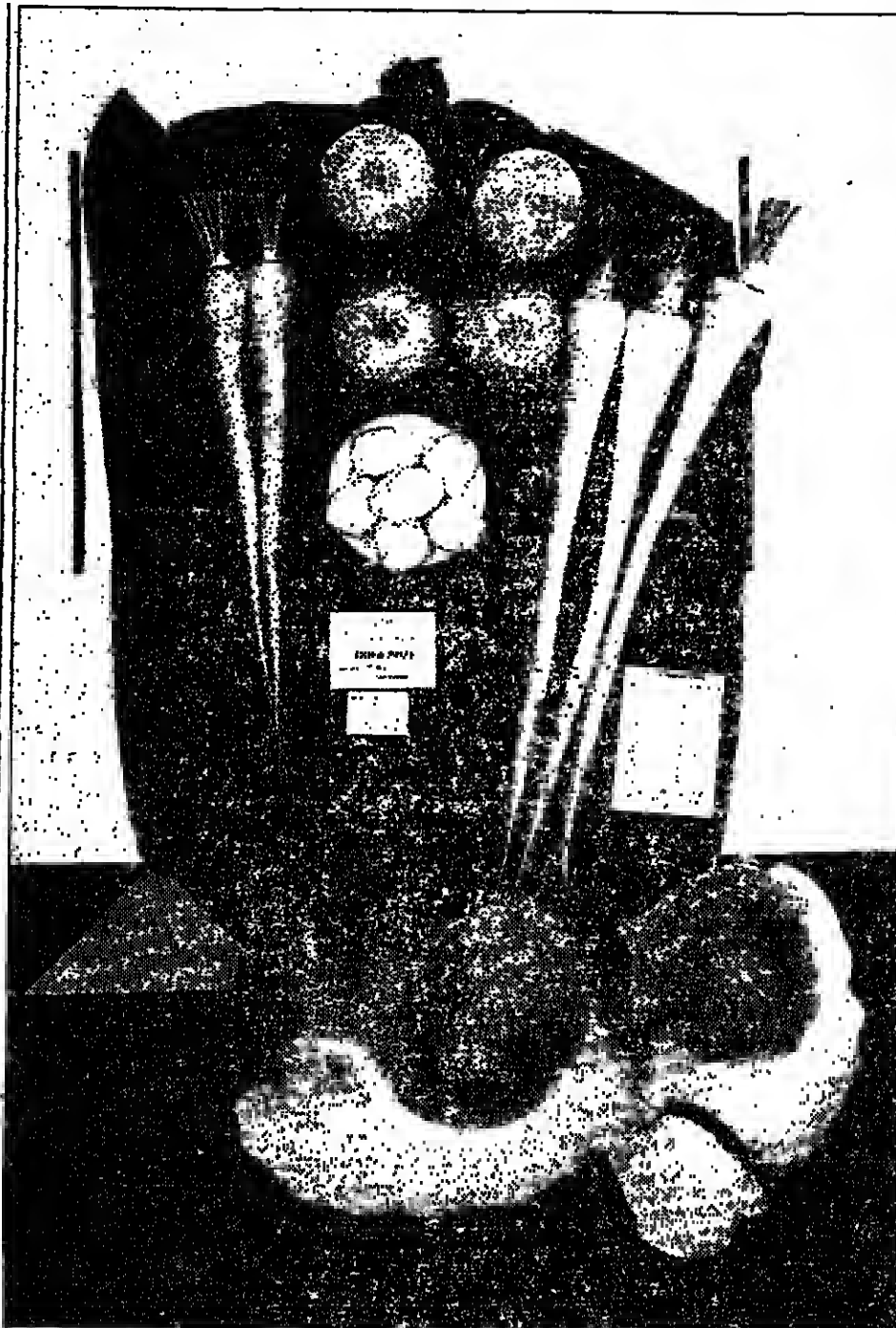
X-rays are by far the largest source of man-made radiation, accounting for some 87 per cent of the total dose to the British population. In spite of that, the evidence is that medical X-rays are used far less frequently in Britain than in some other advanced countries. France and the United States have about twice as many examinations a person as Britain.

One reason for unnecessary X-rays was poor management, the working party concludes. A recent study at an orthopaedic clinic in Scotland showed that one-third of patients had to have their X-rays repeated because the original films had not been sent on by their GPs, in spite of this having been requested.

A third of those repeats were high-dose examinations of the lower spine. While that was believed to be exceptional, repeat rates of about 10 per cent because films had been lost or were of poor quality seemed typical. With proper quality control it should be possible to halve that to about 5 per cent.

The X-ray machines in use in hospitals gave the radiologists no indication of the radiation dose to the patient, so hospitals could be unaware that their standards were lower than others.

The working party recommends that hospitals should make measurements of skin doses from time to time and compare them with best available practice, and that manufacturers should be encouraged to build patient-exposure monitoring devices into diagnostic X-ray equipment.



Prize-winning vegetables that are never likely to be found on a market stall are admired by visitors to the City of London Flower Show at Guildhall yesterday. In spite of the drought, the vegetable section was well supported

Public warned against direct mail trickery

By LIN JENKINS

DUBIOUS sales pitches used by some timeshare companies are being used to sell other products, the Office of Fair Trading said yesterday. Letters, often posted in the United States, offering prizes and inviting the consumer to make a telephone claim are a disguised attempt to sell a range of goods, including cosmetics and domestic water filters. Once on the telephone the salesman tries to close a sale before giving details of the prize.

Sir Gordon Borrie, director-general of fair trading, advised people yesterday to be sceptical of such offers. "It is very unlikely that you will in fact receive a valuable award with no strings attached. The promoter's aim is to sell you something. Never, never give your credit card number over the telephone before you are

told what the company is selling," he said. Trading standards officials are investigating complaints and examining the theory that companies that had been selling timeshare had moved into other fields.

In his recent review of the timeshare industry, Sir Gordon strongly criticised personalised direct mail advertisements offering awards without making the purpose clear. "This selling method gives consumers no opportunity to make a reasoned and considered decision to make a purchase. It drives a coach and horses through all the principles of fair trading."

He said that personalised direct mail was regarded as advertising. Consequently, anyone who had not received a promised award could complain to the Advertising Standards Authority.

Historic guga hunt is backed by RSPB

By KERRY GILL

FOR the past 1,000 years, it is believed, young men from Ness in the Hebridean island of Lewis have risked their lives on a tiny, uninhabited outcrop in the Atlantic to trap the guga, a delicacy beloved by Gaels the world over.

The annual hunt of the guga, the name for gannets found on Sula Sgeir, which lies about 40 miles north of the Butt of Lewis, ended successfully at the weekend as piles of the seabirds were dumped on the pier at Port of Ness. Surprisingly, the annual slaughter is not only accepted by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, but is specially provided for under parliamentary legislation.

The gugas are sold for about £10 a brace. Many are salted and sent overseas to expatriate Lewismen, who wait each year to renew their taste for the oily birds. Once boiled, they are said to be delicious, although one islander who has never developed the taste said that they were disgusting.

Guga hunts have little in common with the Scottish grouse season. Able-bodied men sail to the nature reserve of Sula Sgeir, where they can spend up to three weeks encamped above the cliffs where the gugas nest and breed. Up to 3,000 birds can be caught each season, although six years ago the society was thought to have been successful in persuading the hunters to limit annual killings to 2,000.

The hunters maintain that the guga is not an endangered species. There are an estimated 8,000 nesting on Sula Sgeir each year and their numbers are rising, they claim.

For once, it seems that the trappers and the society agree. Stuart Benn, assistant species management officer, said: "It does not seem to be having any adverse effect on the gannets. We believe there are about 9,000 nesting there now. My opinion is that it is a traditional hunt that has been going on for at least 400 years, and probably much longer."

Routine screening for Aids is urged

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

PATIENTS admitted to London hospitals should be routinely screened for Aids to reduce the risk of infection, to staff and to ensure early treatment, a consultant microbiologist said yesterday.

Dr David Shanson, consultant microbiologist at Westminster Hospital, London, suggested that all patients, apart from emergency cases, should be given a questionnaire that would ask about their lifestyle and recent high-risk practices. This would be combined with a clinical case history to determine whether the patient was vulnerable to infection.

If the patient was, he or she should then be asked to have an Aids test. "If they refused they would be treated as if they had HIV," Dr Shanson said. Speaking at the Hospital Infection Society's second annual conference yesterday, he suggested that such procedures would be particularly important in areas where HIV was more prevalent, such as London and Edinburgh.

This would avoid the need for cumbersome, expensive and time-consuming precautions in all operating theatres, when only a small percentage of patients were likely to be infected. In London, two to four people out of every 1,000 aged 25 to 49 are estimated to have HIV, a figure which drops to about one per 1,000 elsewhere in the country, Dr Shanson suggested that extra

precautions should only be used universally if prevalence rates rose to more than 1 per cent of the population.

He admitted, however, that it would be preferable to give all patients questionnaires when they were admitted, as it would enable early treatment and reduce the risk of transmission in the community.

Conference delegates were told that surgeons in the United States and Britain have become increasingly concerned about the risk of being infected by HIV-positive patients while they are carrying out operations. There are, however, no documented cases of surgeons or other health workers contracting the disease in this way, according to Dr William Schaffner, head of the department of preventive medicine at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee.

American figures show that 20 health workers have become infected with HIV after accidental jabs from needles or other blood contact in hospitals and two others have developed Aids.

The speakers insisted that there was no clear evidence that surgeons with HIV had infected their patients. However, Dr Shanson and Dr Schaffner called for screening for all surgeons and the US centres for disease control are considering whether infected surgeons should continue operating.

Raiders tracked down by Bond-style bug

By PETER VICTOR

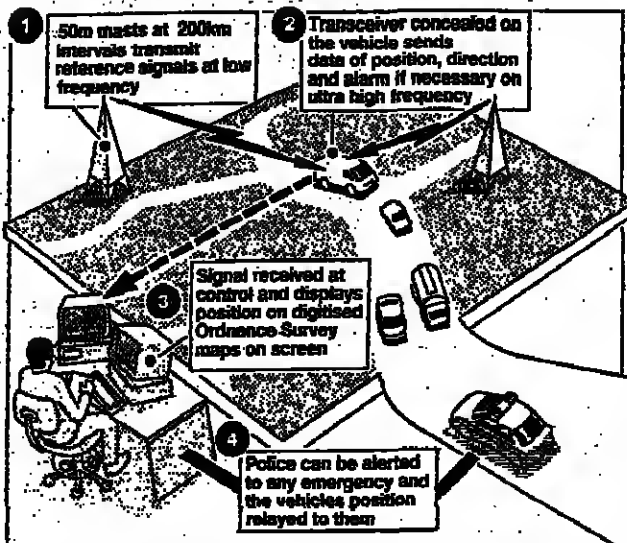
AN ATTEMPTED armed hijack of £100,000 from a security van was foiled by a computerised radio tracking system that is being fitted to vehicles with high value loads.

The device, similar in principle to the black boxes attached to cars in James Bond films, led to the arrest on Friday night of one of the two alleged armed robbers in Harlesden, north London.

The pair had locked the crew in the van and ripped out its two-way radio but were unaware that the tracking device, called Datatrak, had already raised the alarm.

Datatrak works on the same principle as marine radio navigation systems, which compare signals from pairs of transmitters to find the position of vessels. It uses a nationwide network of 50 metre masts, about 200 kilometres apart, which transmit reference signals at low frequencies between 130 and 150 kilohertz.

Vehicles fitted with the system carry a radio transceiver the size of a handback book, together with a concealed aerial. The unit



analyses several pairs of reference signals to establish an accurate position for the vehicle. It then sends back an ultra-high frequency signal to establish the vehicle's position on an Ordnance Survey grid reference, as well as its direction, together with an alarm signal.

This information is superimposed as a flag on a computerised map at Datatrak's central London office or the vehicle owner's premises. The maps are digitised copies of

the Ordnance Survey 50,000 series displayed on high resolution screens or wall displays, similar to those in air traffic control centres.

Vehicle positions are updated at varying intervals between 108 seconds and 28 minutes. Tony Scorer, product manager of the Swindon-based firm which is a subsidiary of Securicon, the security company, said: "The high resolution graphics are ahead of those used in computer games." Systems can

also be set up where the driver uses a numeric keypad to let his controller know what he is doing without making a telephone call. Tapping in 14, for example, would let his company know he is going off duty. Number two means he is having his dinner break.

Mr Scorer said that his company had built up a good relationship with police forces all over the country as well as the Metropolitan police in London. "We can now phone them and let them know a vehicle is in trouble, and they can respond," he said.

"Several years ago their response to a call from us was: 'How do you know a security vehicle is in trouble?' On one occasion in Cambridge we had a security van which had followed a police vehicle back to the station. When we contacted them and said we think our vehicle is in your pound outside the station, they said: 'What do you know, you're all the way down in London?' We finally persuaded them to look and there it was. It's rather nice when that happens."

Mr Scorer said the system was being fitted to an increasing number of vehicles in the

UK. Uses outside the security sector included Surrey ambulance services, Bath city council, the RAC and London's Riverbus Partnership. For a fleet of around 20 vehicles over five years the system costs about £1,000 a year for each vehicle.

"Our users are operators who are interested in rapid response to calls. Ambulance services can see who they've got out there and who can get to the scene quickest. They're interested in the best use of resources and keeping down mileage."

The company is at present extending its operation in Scotland by installing an extensive network of masts. Scotland Yard yesterday gave cautious approval to the system but stressed it could only be an aid to police work.

"If these things work properly and live up to their expectations they can be an excellent aid to crime prevention and detection," a flying squad spokesman said.

"A hijacked vehicle can be tracked and the police alerted. However, at the end of the day, a policeman in a patrol car will have to face and disarm the robbers."

Car firms 'must face challenge of open market'

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

EUROPEAN car manufacturers cannot hide behind the protection of restrictions on Japanese imports but must face the challenge of an open car market and "bite the bullet" of restructuring to become more competitive, a Lords committee report says today.

The committee, chaired by Lord Aldington, backs the European Commission's plan to end quotas by 1993, creating a single market without recklessly exposing the industry to a surge in Japanese imports. The report concludes that it would be a tragedy if the EC adopted a two-tier single market by exempting the car industry from the dismantling of trade barriers.

Japanese-owned factories in the EC, such as the Nissan plant in Sunderland, should not be covered by import restrictions although governments need to negotiate local-content agreements with Japanese firms.

Quotas on Japanese imports vary within the Community from a 43 per cent share of the car market in Ireland to 0.26 per cent in Spain. British traders negotiate an informal limit with the Japanese, who hold a 11.3 per cent share of Britain's car market. France, by comparison, limits Japanese imports to 3 per cent while Italy sets an annual quota of 30,000 vehicles.

The committee said that most car companies and governments recognised the need for an open market but wanted a gradual phasing out of restrictions. The EC council of ministers has approved talks with the Japanese for a transitional period in phasing out imports, although no set period has been agreed.

Vauxhall executives told the committee: "In the long run protectionism will not work and we therefore feel that the best way to face the Japanese challenge is to continue to improve our productivity and reduce our costs." Fiat UK said, however, that

giving way to Japanese imports would interrupt the industry's recovery.

Governments and companies differed over the length of transition to an open market. France wanted a 10 year period but Britain said such a long period would encourage complacency. Ford said any arrangements should last throughout the 1990s while Renault wanted as long a transition as possible.

With 12 million new cars a year sold in the EC and car manufacturers employing nearly two million workers, the peers predict a fierce battle for market share in the 1990s. "The only answer is for Community manufacturers to become more competitive in European markets and elsewhere. Several firms - not just the new Japanese transplant factories - are already climbing the ladder of competitiveness," the report says.

"Such firms will have to intensify their efforts, and those firms which have not climbed this ladder fast enough will face a stark choice. They can either meet the challenge and bite the bullet of restructuring or they can fall into decline under the pressures from their rivals. What they cannot do is to rely on hiding behind the protection of national import controls."

The peers say that the Japanese have shown the benefits from rival firms collaborating on basic and long-term research.

Attempts for a common EC approach to break into the Japanese car market had failed because one member state tended to break ranks in pursuit of a separate deal. "Hence the Japanese did not take the commission seriously when it claimed to represent a unified front of all parties," the report says.

House of Lords select committee on the European Communities: a single market for cars (Stationery Office: £11.05)



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NUM leader comes under savage attack from Kinnock

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND TIM JONES

NEIL Kinnock launched a devastating assault on Arthur Scargill yesterday as he rammed home the message to the TUC conference in Blackpool that there will be no special favours for the unions under a future Labour government.

Twenty-four hours after Mr Scargill had clashed publicly with moderate union bosses over TUC backing for Labour's acceptance of much of the government's employment legislation, the Labour leader turned his words against him to emphasise that there can be no return to the cosy deals that characterised the last Labour government.

Without naming the president of the National Union of Mineworkers, Mr Kinnock's target was clear as he recalled that the day before he had heard someone saying that the TUC vote was a betrayal of principle and demanding special favours from a Labour government. The accusation about principle, Mr Kinnock said, was a serious charge and a false one.

To applause from delegates, the Labour leader argued that principles were of little help to the needy unless they could be translated into action. Then, in a pointed reminder that Mr Scargill's brand of union militancy had hardly proved successful over the past 11 years, he added, in a passage that drew the most enthusiastic response from delegates: "The test of principles is how you put them into effect, not how you parade them for effect. That might not impress those who think that principles are best cherished in opposition. They might be comfortable listening to the sound of their own self-righteousness. But I must say, it is not those people who suffer for lack of power."

Mr Kinnock also scorned Mr Scargill for his conduct during and after the miners' strike of 1984-5. "I have to tell you that I think it is a pretty peculiar set of principles that produces martyrdom for the followers and never sacrifice for the leaders."

Mr Kinnock was given a standing ovation by about three-quarters of the delegates. The rest joined the NUM president in staying in their seats and not joining in the applause as they provided a silent reminder that an important but declining proportion of the union movement is not yet ready to embrace Mr Kinnock's electoral pragmatism. The majority later found another way of expressing their disapproval of the miners' leader when they declined to elect him to the TUC general council.

Mr Scargill, who the day before had delighted his followers with the ferocity of his assault on the retreat by Labour and the TUC leadership from their past pledges to scrap all Tory union laws, said merely, after the ovation: "No comment is necessary."

Delegates and union leaders immediately drew parallels between Mr Kinnock's contemptuous dismissal yesterday of Mr Scargill and his electrifying attack on Derek Hutton, the Militant leader of Liverpool council, at the Labour conference in 1985. The only difference was that then he provoked a public outburst from his target.

The Labour leader's speech was welcomed by most union leaders, but a minority of hard-line left-wingers resented his attack on Mr Scargill and his intervention in their affairs.

Alan Sapper, general secretary of the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians, likened Mr Kinnock's speech to a lecture by Edward Heath, the former Conservative prime minister.

More typical was the response of Bill Jordan, president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, who said: "In his barely disguised attack on Arthur Scargill, one of yesterday's people, he pulled him together with Margaret Thatcher, saying both of them are spouting lies, half truths and hypocrisy. The only rights we want guaranteed are those which are in law and which are fair."

John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB general union, said: "He was speaking as a future prime minister."

Ken Gill, general secretary of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union, said, however: "I didn't know what he was talking about when he spoke about favours. I didn't know we had any."

Building on the boost to his leadership from the employment law vote, Mr Kinnock said that fairness not favours would be the watchword of a Labour administration under his control. That was what the TUC had accepted with its endorsement of the reformed industrial relations package.

Labour's purpose was not favours for its friends, but justice for all. That was how people should view the party's commitment to decent pen-



Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, making a point during a debate in Blackpool yesterday, on the second day of the congress

sions and health care, good housing and education, equal opportunities and rights to join a trade union.

"Surely, it is basic to this movement that these must be rights of citizenship, not gifts of patronage, not favours... Leave the favouritism, the backhanders, the nepotism, the insider dealing and the old boy system to the Tories and their 'friends of the family'."

Mr Kinnock said Labour's way was different. It was based on equity, merit, fair play, civil rights and justice.

Mr Kinnock coupled his attack on Mr Scargill and his insistence that in power Labour would operate an arm's-length relationship with the unions with a denunciation of the "wasted Eighties".

He maintained that the Conservatives had squandered £85 billion in oil revenues and £35 billion from selling public assets. They had also imposed the heaviest tax burden in British history, setting aside the poll tax.

The "wasted Eighties" would be the Tories' epitaph and the legacy a Labour government would inherit.

Philip Bassett, page 10

Delegates accept plan for workplace 'green audits'

By PETER MULLIGAN

GOVERNMENT plans to stabilize carbon dioxide emissions by 2005 were denounced by union leaders during a debate on the environment in which TUC plans for "green audits" at the workplace were unanimously approved.

John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB, accused the prime minister of setting the target deliberately low in an effort to avoid action for years to come.

Calling for stabilization of emissions by 2000, he said that the public was now noticing the contrast between the government's "soft green statements" and its damaging policies.

He highlighted cuts in the programme to cleanse power station emissions and said: "Margaret Thatcher talks about trees and lakes, but her policies produce the acid rain that kills them both."

He predicted that the government's environment white paper due to be published in a few weeks would be as satisfying to real environmentalists as a "lungful of exhaust fumes".

Turning to the TUC's plans, he proposed green audits at the workplace that should cover everything from raw materials and disposable waste to packaging and stationery. If the government declined to lay down joint guidelines for environmental audits, the unions would concentrate on making deals with the big companies.

If companies were unresponsive, he pledged a campaign to oblige each one to undertake an environmental audit by law according to set standards and to publish the results.

Mr Edmonds called on unions to take responsibility for cleaning up the results of the filthy mismanagement of the past and for creating a greener economy.

He also criticised the lack of action by America and Japan which have not set targets for the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions. He promised that contact would be made with trade union movements in those countries to campaign for emission controls.

Jimmy Knapp, National Union of Railwaymen general secretary, said that the government target for reducing carbon dioxide emissions was far too modest and the unions might even have to go beyond the TUC target.

Despite another oil crisis and the price of petrol edging up, there was still no serious push for energy conservation.

John Ellis, general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association, said that to reject nuclear power would contribute heavily to global warming. He called for developed countries to recognise the benefits of "limitless" power provided by nuclear generation.

Bill Etherington, of the National Union of Mineworkers, told delegates, however: "We must resist the option of nuclear power as an antidote to global warming." He said that Mrs Thatcher was wedded to nuclear power because of contempt for the coal industry and hatred of the union leadership.

Acid rain, he said, could best be controlled by flue gas desulphurisation which could reduce sulphur dioxide emissions by 90 per cent.

The congress unanimously supported a motion calling for the raising of awareness on environmental issues inside and outside the workplace and for the development of environmental audits.

A call for the "greening" of the National Health Service, the largest employer in Western Europe, with a million workers, won unanimous backing from delegates. Maureen O'Mara, of Nupse, said: "We do not want any more reports of clinical waste and used needles turning up on east coast beaches."

Mr Rogers, a senior vice-president of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, as delegates unanimously passed a resolution condemning the proposal put forward by John MacGregor, the education secretary, in July.

Mr Rogers, a secondary school teacher from Sheffield, said the opt-out scheme bore the marks of Margaret Thatcher's paranoid opposition to national pay bargaining. It was intended to give councils the scope to raise salaries in areas where recruitment was proving difficult. But the side effects would be damaging.

The reality is that local authorities constrained for cash will raise wages by reducing the number of workers. Teacher redundancies and larger classes will pay for higher salaries," she said.

Mrs Rogers also condemned the powers the government was taking to intervene in pay talks between their local authority employers and their unions under its plans to restore negotiating rights from next year. Far from offering "full and fair" opportunities for pay bargaining, she said, the secretary of state was putting in place a hypocritical charade.

Local authorities would be tied by cash limits and the poll tax and the government would be the puppet master, pulling the strings while seeking to distance itself from negotiations. Mrs Rogers predicted that the proposed arrangements would lead to confrontation and chaos. However, the conference resolution stopped short of outright condemnation of this part of the government's package, expressing alarm at the ministerial veto over agreements.

Douglas McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, painted a gloomy picture of the year ahead in the country's classrooms as he accused the government of complacency over

Japanese firms get union offer

By TIM JONES
EMPLOYMENT
CORRESPONDENT

THE Amalgamated Engineering Union has launched an aggressive marketing campaign in Japan offering companies that are considering investing in Britain a single-union agreement designed to minimise the possibility of strikes or confrontation.

The AEU initiative is the latest move in the so-called "beauty contest" battle between unions that approach investors to persuade them that new jobs should be offered to their members.

At present, four unions, including the AEU, are vying with each other to gain sole negotiating rights for the 3,000 workers who will be employed at the £700 million plant being built by the Toyota car company in Derbyshire.

Unions will also learn within the next month which one, if any, has been chosen to represent employees at the new Japanese-owned Pioneer plant in Wakefield where 1,000 workers will manufacture music equipment for cars.

The glossy bilingual brochure that the AEU is sending to Japanese companies emphasises that "the adversarial relationship of unions and employers is an outdated concept. We are now moving even further ahead of a progressive partnership between management and unions."

Mr Gavin Laird, AEU general secretary, who disclosed details of the plan at the congress in Blackpool, said that the union would not sign any deals that contained a no-strike agreement.

"We could not do that because ultimately that is a decision for the workforce, but we believe the package we offer, which includes agreement on pendulum arbitration, will make industrial action extremely unlikely."

Mr Laird said it was clear that the days of multi-union bargaining were numbered. "It is now either one union or no union."

He added that the "yesterday's union" attitude of the Transport and General Workers' Union to press for multi-union recognition had cost jobs when the Ford company decided to abandon its plans to build a £40 million plant in Dundee.

In addition to a single-union deal, the AEU is also offering a range of benefits including:

- Single status for all employees, to break down the old artificial barriers between the shop floor and the office.
- Independent conciliation and arbitration to deal with problems that cannot be resolved internally.
- Flexible work patterns and training to maximise flexibility and productivity.

Four years ago, the AEU secured the first single-union deal in the motor industry after its agreement with Nissan.

Training enterprise councils will be subject to increasing crises and resignations next year, delegates were told during a debate on training.

Tim Webb, of the Manufacturing Science Finance Union, said that plans by enterprise council executives had been sent back by the Training Agency, acting on the government's behalf, with demands for cuts.

Training enterprise councils will be subject to increasing crises and resignations next year, delegates were told during a debate on training.

Mr McAvoy cited the example of a teacher from Massachusetts hired for a British classroom who had taught on an Indian reservation but never in an inner city. In another case, a New Jersey teacher began his career in a British school.

Delegates also supported a resolution calling for free nursery education for all children aged three to five, whose parents wanted the service.

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Increase safety staff call

By OUR EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

A UNION leader said yesterday that the number of safety inspectors must be increased by half to make Britain's health and safety laws effective.

Bill Brett, general secretary of the Institution of Professionals, Managers and Specialists, said that serious under-staffing, low morale and lack of scientific and administrative support were eating away at the efforts of the inspectors to maintain health and safety standards.

Launching an alternative report on the work of the Health and Safety Executive, Mr Brett challenged the government to live up to its pledge to improve the resources devoted to health and safety for Britain's workforce of 23 million people.

He told delegates that it was a disgrace that the government had engineered falls in the number of inspectors for factories, agriculture, mines and other industries. He added: "No wonder the chances of our workplaces being inspected are twice as poor today as they were in 1980. No wonder the number of serious accidents has gone up, despite all the wringing of hands after tragedies that take the lives of hundreds of people."

The 1988-9 report of the Health and Safety Executive, he said, had shown that in an eight-year period the annual toll of non-fatal serious injuries to employees had risen from 57.8 per 1,000 to 85.2 per 1,000. There were 697 fatal injuries last year.

Mr Brett said that this financial year the executive's grant allocation from the Treasury was £116 million, a cut of £9 million. "Michael Howard, the employment secretary, must secure an increase to £160 million in next year's grant allocation if the HSE is to do its job properly."

He added that the spate of complex new regulations, such as those covering pesticides, dangerous substances, genetic manipulation, noise and electricity, made it imperative for the number of inspectors to be increased.

Strike votes over shorter hours

By OUR EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

WORKERS at seven companies have voted to go on indefinite strike unless the management concedes their demand for a shorter working week (Tim Jones writes).

Alex Ferry, general secretary of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, said other companies could also be affected by industrial action unless they reduced the working week to 37 hours. He said that his union would be setting a date soon by which the first stage of the campaign, aimed eventually at securing a 35-hour week, would be completed.

Mr Ferry, told delegates: "Companies who have not yet conceded will have to concede by that date or face the inevitable consequences of strike action."

Six of the companies where strike action is planned are in Scotland and the other is in Darlington. Between them, they employ almost 600 workers. Ballot results are expected from three other firms, in North Wales, in Belfast and at GEC in East Anglia.

Mr Ferry announced 31 new agreements giving engineering workers a shorter working week and said that the campaign was now unstoppable. "We have now won from almost every major engineering employer in the UK the one thing they said they would never agree to, shorter hours on trade union terms."

Bill Jordan, president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, said: "The campaign has worked brilliantly. We have well over 1,000 agreements and not one single defeat."

Local pay bargaining 'will mean teaching job losses'

By OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government's plan to allow local authorities to opt out of national pay bargaining for teachers will lead to redundancies and bigger classes, delegates were told yesterday.

The warning came from Sue Rogers, a senior vice-president of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, as delegates unanimously passed a resolution condemning the proposal put forward by John MacGregor, the education secretary, in July.

Mr Rogers, a secondary school teacher from Sheffield, said the opt-out scheme bore the marks of Margaret Thatcher's paranoid opposition to national pay bargaining. It was intended to give councils the scope to raise salaries in areas where recruitment was proving difficult. But the side effects would be damaging.

The reality is that local authorities constrained for cash will raise wages by reducing the number of workers. Teacher redundancies and larger classes will pay for higher salaries," she said.

Mrs Rogers also condemned the powers the government was taking to intervene in pay talks between their local authority employers and their unions under its plans to restore negotiating rights from next year. Far from offering "full and fair" opportunities for pay bargaining, she said, the secretary of state was putting in place a hypocritical charade.

Local authorities would be tied by cash limits and the poll tax and the government would be the puppet master, pulling the strings while seeking to distance itself from negotiations. Mrs Rogers predicted that the proposed arrangements would lead to confrontation and chaos. However, the conference resolution stopped short of outright condemnation of this part of the government's package, expressing alarm at the ministerial veto over agreements.

Douglas McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, painted a gloomy picture of the year ahead in the country's classrooms as he accused the government of complacency over

teacher shortages. While ministers argued that there was nothing to worry about, parents were anxious to know if their children would have a full-time teacher from the start of term.

Mr McAvoy was critical of the aggressive recruiting drive undertaken by local authorities in Europe, Australasia and America. "I do not seek to imply that those recruited are incompetent. I do believe," he said, "that there is concern about the relevance of their qualification, their training and their preparation to the needs and demands of our system."

Mr McAvoy cited the example of a teacher from Massachusetts hired for a British classroom who had taught on an Indian reservation but never in an inner city. In another case, a New Jersey teacher began his career in a British school.

Delegates also supported a resolution calling for free nursery education for all children aged three to five, whose parents wanted the service.

Troops fire on township mobs as black strife deepens

From GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

RAMPAGING mobs hacked and burnt dozens of people to death and witnesses said troops opened fire indiscriminately in a resurgence of black township violence around Johannesburg yesterday.

President de Klerk appealed for peace and Nelson Mandela expressed outrage at the army's conduct during separate visits to the strife-torn areas, but the conflict, which claimed more than 500 lives last month, appeared to be spiralling out of control.

Renewed fighting between Zulu supporters of Inkatha and Xhosa-speaking residents, who broadly support the African National Congress, flared late on Monday night. At least 10 people were killed during the night in three townships, and by midday yesterday, the death toll was nearing 40. The worst clashes were reported in Sebokeng, west of Johannesburg, where witnesses said Inkatha warriors stabbed and bludgeoned about 20 people to death in a workers' hostel, and troops later opened fire on a crowd which had gathered round the building.

N. Khumalo, a photographer, said he went towards the hostel compound at about 4am. "As I came in, the army was already entering the area. They took up positions and cocked their guns. I thought maybe they wanted to scare people. The people came towards them waving their hands, saying 'peace, we are not fighting'. Some of them even sat down. All of a sudden there was shooting. Many of the people ran but some of them fell," Mr Khumalo said when it was over, he counted 11 bodies in and around the hostel.

A Roman Catholic priest gave a similar account. He said he had been trying to negotiate with riot police when soldiers opened fire indiscriminately. He also claimed that armoured vehicles had run over dead and dying people.

A police spokesman confirmed that 11 bodies had been found after troops had moved in to assist police confronted by a mob of 5,000 and said a military board of

inquiry had been appointed to investigate. He said police went to the hostel after four people had been shot dead earlier, and a large crowd gathered.

"They appeared very aggressive and were armed with dangerous weapons. The mob openly declared they were there to enter the hostel and kill the people responsible for the earlier killings." Police had difficulty preventing them entering the building, he said. Stones were thrown, and a single shot was fired. It was not known where it came from.

The spokesman added that 150 people had been arrested in connection with the initial killings. It was understood the majority were Inkatha members, and included the Transvaal chairman of its youth brigade.

Mr Mandela, the ANC deputy president, made a scathing attack on the army after visiting the scene. "Members of Inkatha, as well as the army, must take full responsibility for having taken lives without any real provocation, when the lives of the soldiers were not at all in jeopardy."

A local news agency reporter following Mr Mandela in the township a few hours later was rescued by an American television crew after his vehicle was stoned, overturned and set on fire.

In Vosloorus, south of Johannesburg, civic leaders said about 20 houses were attacked and burnt during the night by Zulu hostel dwellers. They included the home of Jerry Moliswa, whose brother Arthur told reporters: "A mob started stoning the house, and when they broke the windows Jerry phoned the police who arrived in an armoured vehicle. The attackers dispersed but returned, smashed the burglar bars and tried to set the house alight. While attempting to douse the flames, Jerry was shot dead in the chest and stomach."

A few hours later, a television crew filmed a mob attacking the Vosloorus hostel and setting it on fire. Suddenly a band of Zulus emerged from behind the building and charged with spears and clubs. At that point a police armoured vehicle raced between them, firing birdshot and tear gas.

Mr de Klerk had a less traumatic tour of Soweto, which was not affected by the violence. Accompanied by his wife, he was given a warm reception by residents who thronged to shake his hand. An elderly man who stood before him on a muddy street extended his hand, saying: "Hello, brother. You are welcome."

Another shouted: "Viva Comrade de Klerk." After touring a hospital, a school and a workers' hostel, the president expressed sorrow at the killings and made an emotional appeal for peace. "If we allow strife to destabilise our country, the end will be crisis for everybody. It must come to an end. Everybody, each father and mother, each person in authority must exert all the influence they can to restore order."

Calling on all communities to support their leaders in negotiations, he said: "South Africa is a country with a tremendous potential. It has room for all its people. There is hope for everybody. We must not allow a violent minority to ruin that hope. I call upon all leaders to stand up and take co-responsibility in making all our people safe."

● **HARARE:** President de Klerk has removed a 10-year-old propaganda thorn in the flesh of his neighbour, President Mugabe of Zimbabwe, by stopping broadcasts of Radio Truth (Michael Hartnack writes).

Radio Truth, which broadcast from the northern Transvaal in English, Shona and Ndebele, was blamed by Zimbabwe for fomenting intertribal and factional violence which reached its peak before President Mugabe's 1987 pact with Joshua Nkomo, the former leader of the opposition Zanu party, now vice-president.

A logical next step in the improved relations between Zimbabwe and South Africa would be the release from Zimbabwean prisons of six convicted South African agents.

Tennis fan murdered by muggers

New York — Police arrested seven youths for the murder in a Manhattan underground train station of a Utah tourist who came here with his family to see the US Open tennis tournament. Brian Watkins, aged 22, was fatally stabbed on Sunday as he tried to fight off a gang that robbed his father and punched his mother.

The gang was "trying to get money to go dancing at Roseland", a police officer said. Roseland, a famed dancehall, was holding a rap music concert and is three streets from the underground station. (Reuters)

Boycott threat

Bangkok — The Khmer Rouge will boycott Cambodian peace talks scheduled in Jakarta this week unless Hun Sen, prime minister of the government in Phnom Penh, attends. Mr Hun Sen has said he decided not to attend because Prince Sihanouk was staying away. "Why should we go?" the Khmer Rouge has asked. "Who are we going to talk to? Those junior puppets?" (Reuters)

Hong Kong move

Hong Kong — John Wood, former deputy director of public prosecutions and head of the Serious Frauds Office, who secured the convictions in the Guinness case, has arrived here to take up his new post as director of public prosecutions (Jonathan Braude writes). He has said it will take him six months to settle in, but his first task will be to clean up alleged corruption in his own department.

Chile bombing

Santiago — Bombs rocked the Chilean capital hours before the ceremonial reburial of Salvador Allende, the Marxist president who died in a coup 17 years ago. Police said they believed the bombs were placed by an extreme right-wing group, named the "September 11 Commandos" after the date of the 1973 coup which toppled Allende. (Reuters)

Bread shortage

Bucharest — Local authorities in Romania appealed to consumers to buy less bread in the face of food shortages. The Prefect's Office in Dimbovitza, a county just north of Bucharest, said it had recommended daily limits of 1lb for villagers, 1½lb for townspeople and 2½lb for workers in heavy industry. It denied that this meant formal rationing. (Reuters)

Liberia setback

Freetown — The West African peacekeeping force in Liberia has been forced to withdraw from Monrovia's James Spriggs Payne airport under rebel fire. Diplomats in Sierra Leone quoted General Arnold Quainoo, the force commander, as saying his troops pulled out under attack from Charles Taylor's rebels. (Reuters)



Words of comfort: President de Klerk smiles as his wife, Marike, hugs a hospital patient in Soweto during a visit to investigate violence

Moscow in attempt to woo Japan

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

JAPAN and the Soviet Union began another attempt to defrost their icy relations last night when Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, arrived in Tokyo to prepare the way for a visit next year by President Gorbachev.

"I believe that Mr Gorbachev's planned visit will be an important turning point for Japan-Soviet relations. The Soviet Union and Japan should further expand bilateral relations and secure stronger co-operation in various fields," said Mr Shevardnadze on arrival.

He and his Tokyo counterpart, Taro Nakayama, will discuss the problems of Moscow's need for Japanese investment and technology, both for its economy and to develop the Soviet Far East, and Japan's wish for the return of four islands in the Kuril chain, just north of Japan, which it says Moscow invaded illegally during the second world war.

Mr Gorbachev said recently he was ready to discuss any issue with Japan. Tokyo hopes Mr Shevardnadze will say just how much progress Japan can expect on the territorial dispute and whether the Soviet leader will be coming in the spring, a commonly mentioned time.

Japan is not pleased that Mr Gorbachev has travelled the world but not so far found time to visit his economically powerful neighbour. It is hoped that when he comes a peace treaty between the two countries could be signed which would finally end the second world war.

Tokyo's embarrassment at being the world's last cold warrior, and Moscow's desperate need of a helping hand, is nudging both towards some sort of compromise.

It is felt that Japan may be able to buy back indirectly the four islands through aid and loans. The "Hong Kong solution" under which Moscow would hand back the islands after a fixed number of years is also considered a possible option.

Japanese officials hope that Mr Shevardnadze will make a gesture by saying that Moscow is ready to pull out the military forces it has stationed on the islands since 1978.

In return, Japan has been putting the final touches to a package of "intellectual co-operation" to send financial experts to Moscow to help overhaul their banking system and to establish a commodities market. Soviet industrialists and economists will also be invited to Japan to see how capitalism works at full throttle.

Signs of strain behind the scene as two Koreas meet

From SIMON WARNER IN SEOUL

A MOOD of optimism and hope, but little excitement, was evident as the prime minister of North Korea spent his first night in Seoul yesterday before talks with his South Korean counterpart.

The two men smiled and greeted each other warmly at the start of the unprecedented four-day visit which, it is hoped, will be the key to ending four decades of military and political confrontation. But there were already signs of strain behind the facade.

Yon Hyong Muk, prime minister of North Korea, and the six other delegates, who are accompanied by 83 North Korean journalists and support staff, announced after their arrival that they wanted to meet dissidents and visit the families of two clergymen and a student in jail for visiting the North without permission from Seoul. There was no response from the South Koreans, who are certain to be displeased at the request, and have done their best to prevent any contact between the North Korean government and activists in the south.

Kang Young Hoon, prime minister of South Korea and a former ambassador in London, found himself in the awkward position of having to apologise for Seoul's notoriously slow drivers. Mr Yon had been involved in a three-car accident while being driven from the border into the city. A motorist cut in front of his limousine and the two cars di-

rectly behind in the motorcade ploughed into him. Two delegates suffered only slight injuries. Mr Yon was unhurt.

A member of the North Korean entourage with perhaps more real power than Mr Yon, whose position as prime minister is largely ceremonial, is said to be Kim Chun Gil, the vice-chairman of the Committee for Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland. Mr Kim, who is not one of the seven delegates to the talks but is expected to be largely running the show from behind the scenes, was trying to decide last night how to deal with an unexpected dilemma: whether to meet a South Korean woman who claims she is his sister and fled from the North just before the Korean war.

The North Koreans, who are occupying the top five floors at one of Korea's most luxurious hotels, spent their first evening at a dinner given by Mr Kang and watching a film about Korea's treasures.

While little of substance is expected from the four-day visit, Seoul sees it as historic simply because it is happening, and suggests that the North has recognised the existence of a legitimate government in the South for the first time. It is the first time a delegation from one Korea has visited the other for talks since a North Korean delegation was in Seoul for a reunion of dispersed families in December 1985. The

first official visit took place when Lee Hoo Rak, the South Korean intelligence chief, and Pak Song Chol, the North Korean deputy prime minister, exchanged visits in 1972, just after the two sides issued a joint communiqué. This is the highest level Northern visit to the South since separate governments were established in Seoul and Pyongyang in 1948.

Mr Yon and his delegates are scheduled to call on President Roh Tae Woo tomorrow after the two rounds of official talks end. Mr Yon may deliver a personal message to Mr Roh from Kim Il Sung, the North Korean leader, and Mr Roh is likely to reciprocate, Seoul officials said.

If things go well it will be a turning point for improving ties between the two parts of Korea, which fought a bitter war from 1950 to 1953 and have since remained adversaries with more than 1.5 million armed troops facing each other along their fortified border. In a bid to institutionalise exchanges and co-operation, the Southern side will push for accords on transportation, travel and communications, exchanging permanent representatives in Seoul and Pyongyang, establishing a joint economic committee headed by an official of deputy prime minister status for economic exchange, and personnel exchanges, such as the reunion of dispersed families, the officials said.

Labour offers New Zealand a new image

From RICHARD LONG IN WELLINGTON



Determined campaigner: Michael Moore addressing a Labour party meeting before becoming New Zealand's prime minister

MICHAEL Moore, New Zealand's minister for external relations and trade, yesterday became the country's third prime minister in just over a year after Geoffrey Palmer resigned to give the Labour party a better chance in the October 27 general elections.

Mr Moore, aged 41, who had fought a determined campaign for the leadership as the government became demoralised by its deteriorating opinion poll ratings, is one of the few cabinet members from a working-class background. While he has emphasised the value of the welfare state in recent speeches, he indicated after his election yesterday that there would be no sluff in the country's economic policy.

The change was seen as a gamble by Labour MPs to improve their electoral prospects rather than as an ideological move. The government has been running up to 30 points behind the opposition National party, with up to one-third of the electorate

undecided. David Caygill, the finance minister, who had earlier indicated that he would not serve under Mr Moore, said he would stay on. He added that he saw no reason for the leadership change to alter economic policy.

Mr Moore said he got the job because he was a better communicator than Mr Palmer. Helen Clark, the deputy prime minister, who switched her support to Mr Moore, said: "The evidence was there that Mr Palmer could not do as a communicator."

But soon after Mr Palmer's resignation yesterday, the latest poll showed there had already been a sharp upturn in Labour's standing. While still well behind the National party's lead of 44 per cent, a Gallup poll showed Labour had gained 9 per cent in two weeks with 26 per cent of the vote by last weekend. A continuation of this trend would have closed the gap by polling day.

Mr Palmer will serve as minister for the environment, outside the cabinet, and will stand down at the election. A former law professor, he said he could return to an academic career.

Mr Moore, criticised as being mercurial and all things to all people, defies political categorisation. While he preaches the welfare state, he has been a member of a cabinet which has carried out radical economic reforms and privatised state assets.

While he had the backing of the party's left wing for his leadership bid, he is the only member of his government to have had a meeting with a high-ranking member of the United States administration since relations chilled in 1985 as a result of Labour's anti-nuclear policy.

Mr Moore started work as a printer, became an Auckland Trades Council member at 17 and was elected the country's youngest-ever MP at the age of 23. After losing his seat he had a long and ultimately successful battle with cancer before returning to parliament in 1979.

Militants' decrees stir up resentment in Kashmir

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN SRINAGAR

A PILE of typed and handwritten statements from Kashmir's 75 militant organisations arrives every day at the Urdu-language *Srinagar Times* giving warnings, instructions and political commentary. They are published in full, under duress, in the next day's paper.

G. M. Soofi, the editor, says he receives threatening letters or telephone calls if he fails to comply. "We publish at the point of a gun. The same is true for every newspaper in the valley. This is further proof that Kashmir has become a grave and that we are all the walking dead."

All Kashmir's main newspapers were forced to close for six weeks earlier this year after the government accused them of being mouthpieces for Muslim separatists. Certainly, their support for

Kashmiri self-determination is hardly muted, conveyed in a daily deluge of anti-Indian news and comment. The press was allowed to reopen when the authorities became embarrassed by international criticism of censorship.

Apart from the BBC World Service, Kashmiris have no access to independent news about the strife around them. The press in both India and Pakistan is biased and chauvinistic. Indian newspapers, once banned from the valley by militant organisations, are again circulating because of public demands for news, however incomplete. This kind of public pressure marks a change: the oppressive power of the militants over daily life is increasingly resented, despite overwhelming support for their cause.

More and more women are defying the insistence that they wear the *burqa*; people complain about the closure of video shops

and cinemas, which militants said were decadent; there is resentment over the ban on "un-Islamic" bars and liquor shops; and there is despair that the fight is turning into a long haul, despite the militants' promise of victory by the end of last month.

The better-off are angered by a ban on private cars ordered by the militants, who said the vehicles were being used by security forces. Taxi drivers were allowed to return to the streets after protesting that they had lost their only livelihood.

The security forces have inflicted severe blows on the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, the biggest of the militant organisations, whose leadership is in jail. Its nominal leader, the Pakistan-based Amanullah Khan, is not a credible figure in the valley.

A smaller group, Hizbul Mujahidin, has moved to the forefront, assuming the leadership of a new

alliance of six militant organisations that have decided to pool their resources. There is deep division among many groups, however, over whether Kashmir should join Pakistan or become independent. The general population appears to be overwhelmingly in favour of independence; few believe that life would be any better with Pakistan.

People close to the guerrillas say the main groups have ample supplies of weapons, but that some have run short of ammunition because many arms caches have been uncovered by Indian security forces. A two-mile-wide security corridor along the border with Pakistan is said to have hampered the flow of arms and ammunition bought in Pakistan's booming arms bazaars.

Kalashnikov rifles first arrived in Kashmir last year; this year rockets have made their entry. One smashed into the Boulevard

hotel and another punched a gaping hole in the Broadway hotel.

Militant leaders said in interviews their tactics would be to attack security forces inside their camps, in order to reduce the danger of civilian casualties. Launching attacks from villages would be discouraged because of reprisals by security forces.

Farooq Ahmad, aged 28, a leader of the militant Islamic Student League, said the uprising would intensify during the harsh Kashmiri winter. "During the snows we will carry more arms across the border, because the Indians cannot handle themselves in such conditions. The Indians will be bogged down in weather they do not understand. No matter how deep the snow, or how cold the temperature, we can get through the mountain passes on foot. There will be a winter onslaught. That is why it is relatively quiet at the moment."

THE INVASION OF KUWAIT: THE MIDDLE EAST

Crucial steps to giving Saddam the ladder for his climb-down

By MARC WELER

WHETHER buying a washing machine or sealing the fate of a small country in a peace treaty, it pays to read the small print in any agreement. In business as well as in the arena of international politics, devious details are easily overlooked. And if that happens, undesirable results are bound to follow. The three main options for peace in the Gulf therefore need to be examined with some care.

First, there are the enforcers, who are reluctant to discuss anything until President Saddam Hussein has conceded defeat and withdrawn unconditionally from Kuwait in accordance with mandatory United Nations resolutions. Washington is the undisputed leader of this camp, closely followed by Britain.

Secondly, there are those who specialise in the manufacture of fig-leaves to provide a graceful

way out for the dictator in Baghdad, once he sees the error of his ways. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary-General, has highlighted this strategy with his trip to Amman over the weekend.

Finally, there are the appeasers who can count Yasser Arafat, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi and, apparently, King Hussein of Jordan among their ranks. They hope that Iraq will accept a face-saving compromise in exchange for substantial rewards. All three schools of thought need to address a number of crucial points.

□ **The withdrawal from Kuwait.** Mr Arafat and Colonel Gaddafi agree that a withdrawal of Iraqi troops has to be achieved, but they would leave Kuwait in a state of semi-sovereignty. A new government would have to be to President Saddam's liking. Baghdad would "co-ordinate" the economic policy of both states, such as oil pricing and export quotas.

Kuwait would make regular payments into the Iraqi treasury and it would not be allowed to ally itself with outside powers.

This proposal falls foul of binding security council resolutions which demand the re-establishment of Kuwait's full sovereignty. Legally, there simply is no way around the complete and unconditional withdrawal. Even Señor Pérez de Cuéllar will be unable to provide a fig-leaf large enough to cover this fact.

□ **Kuwaiti constitutional reform.** President Saddam boasts that he has done the Kuwaiti population a great service by removing the al-Sabah family from the throne. The UN Security Council, on the other hand, has recognised the exiled emir as the "authority of the legitimate government of Kuwait", and demands his restoration to power. Still, there is some room for compromise, although it would require the far-sighted con-

sent from the Kuwaiti sheikhs. The al-Sabah family could celebrate its return to Kuwait with constitutional reforms aimed at gentle democratisation.

The Kuwaiti parliament, which was disbanded in 1986, would embrace such proposals enthusiastically once it has been reconstituted. In the current climate of national unity, created by opposition to Iraq, which transcends distinctions of class and political persuasion, the position of the emir as a constitutional monarch would certainly be affirmed in a referendum among those who were previously enfranchised in Kuwait.

More far-reaching proposals are, however, problematic as the 700,000 or so Kuwaitis could lose control over their own country.

□ **The settlement of disputes.** Before launching the invasion, Baghdad created a number of financial and territorial disputes

out of thin air. The different peace proposals offer a panoply of mechanisms to settle them. The appeasers want mediation by the Arab League — a dangerous option for Kuwait. "Our Arab brothers will not even wait for one second to stab us in the back," says one Kuwaiti diplomat. "They will do it even before the clock starts ticking to end the conflict quickly at our expense."

A better result could be achieved if all contentious issues were referred to the International Court of Justice or the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague. Of course, these bodies would apply proper international law, as opposed to abstract and rubbery "principles of Islamic justice" which could be used to override the precise Baghdad Agreement of 1963. In that binding treaty with Kuwait, the Iraqis gave up all territorial demands, and the law is not altered simply

because President Saddam experiences a change of heart. Although he would therefore lose if he submits the dispute to judicial settlement, a judgment could not be expected for a year or two; and he would therefore not have to renounce his claims and admit defeat immediately.

□ **Peace forces and "foreign" troops.** Kuwait, and this includes the disputed territories, could certainly be protected by international peacekeepers during and after the withdrawal. But the

disabling split among the member states of the Arab League demonstrates that the troops would need to be controlled by the UN security council to provide an effective guarantee for Kuwait's security. Of course, the force could be composed primarily of units drawn from Muslim countries.

Most Arab leaders also pay lip service to the removal of "foreign"

troops from the region. While the deployment of US and British troops would naturally be reduced once tensions subside, it would not be possible to force them out in a peace deal. Only the Arab host countries can terminate their stay.

□ **The lifting of sanctions.** Whatever solution is adopted, the Security Council will wish to dispatch a special representative to the region. As soon as other misunderstandings have been cleared up, such as the enforced presence of foreigners in Iraq, sanctions could be lifted quickly.

Overall, giving peace a chance does not have to signal that aggression bears sweet fruits. It is possible to provide President Saddam with a ladder for his climb-down, although he will have to stretch pretty far to reach it.

Marc Weller is a researcher in international law at Queen's College, Cambridge.

Jordan blames world neglect for plight of desert refugees

From JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO AND RICHARD OWEN IN JORDAN

CROWN Prince Hassan of Jordan yesterday bitterly accused the world of ignoring the plight of tens of thousands of refugees stranded in the Jordanian desert, and called for immediate international efforts to cope with what he described as a human tragedy of enormous proportions. As he spoke in Amman, fights broke out over water, food and tents in two overcrowded refugee camps at the Iraqi-Jordanian border.

"While the attention of the world is rightly focused on the Iraqi-Kuwait conflict, a human tragedy of the widest dimensions has received but scant attention," the prince said.

Prince Hassan emphasised that countries with nationals stranded in Jordan, and not the kingdom, were responsible for their welfare and repatriation and ultimate welfare. United Nations relief officials yesterday also gave a warning that Jordan would have to cope with nearly one million refugees from Kuwait while conditions in the camps deteriorated further.

Hundreds of Sri Lankans, Filipinos, Indians and Pakistanis, escaping from Kuwait through the Iraqi desert, yesterday poured into the overcrowded Shaalan One and Ruweisid Bridge camps, only to discover that they will spend perhaps up to a week sleeping outdoors and queuing for hours for a bottle of water.

Scenes of desperation were witnessed in both camps yesterday, with angry men fighting over a bucket of water, and women building makeshift tents with blankets, sheets and clothes to protect their children from the scorching sun.

One doctor at Shaalan One, where the refugee population is estimated at 45,000, said people were collapsing from heatstroke at a rate of 30 a day. Boris Tondra, aged 31, a Sri Lankan construction worker, cried in pain from a head injury at the entrance of the hospital tent at the Ruweisid Bridge camp, where at least 8,000 people are living in tents. He said he was attacked by two Pakistanis who stole his bottle of water. "We are becoming savages here," he said. "They hit me with a stone." Doctors at the camp said Jordanian military police intervened twice yesterday to break up fights

over water and food, injuring at least three Filipinos. "The situation is becoming explosive," said a doctor. "Unless help comes soon, there will be riots."

King Hussein of Jordan, Prince Hassan's elder brother, said yesterday he planned to meet President Saddam Hussein of Iraq in Baghdad in an apparent last-ditch attempt to find an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis before the US-Soviet summit at the weekend. The king, ending a tour of five North African and five European nations, told Italian leaders in two hours of talks he would visit Baghdad within the next 48 hours, Italian officials said.

Jordanians fear, however, that King Hussein's diplomatic mission will fail and that the Hashemite kingdom may disintegrate, either in war or because of economic strains that it cannot withstand.

The deteriorating economic situation has given rise to more sober assessments of where Jordan's interests lie. With UN blessing, Jordan is still receiving Iraqi oil overland, despite sanctions, on the ground that it is a repayment of Iraq's debts to Jordan arising from the Gulf war. But Aqaba is at a standstill.

The 300,000 middle-class Jordanian professional and businessmen returning from Kuwait with tales of Iraqi brutality and theft are beginning to tilt the balance back to the West. Pro-Saddam feeling in Jordan remains strong, however, with the Iraqi leader's portrait often seen in offices alongside King Hussein's. Diplomats say that, if King Hussein turns back to the West for economic reasons, he and many Jordanians will continue to side with President Saddam on the issue of "pan-Arabism".

Thousands of Palestinians poured out to the streets of Amman yesterday to mark the thousandth day of the *intifada*, the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule on the West Bank, with more passionate slogans in support of Baghdad. As they did so, ironically, those on the West Bank were beginning to moderate their stand. Arab sources there said demonstrations urging President Saddam to attack Israel had petered out.

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HIGH-TECH WEAPONS

Deadly Scud chemical missiles threaten allies

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

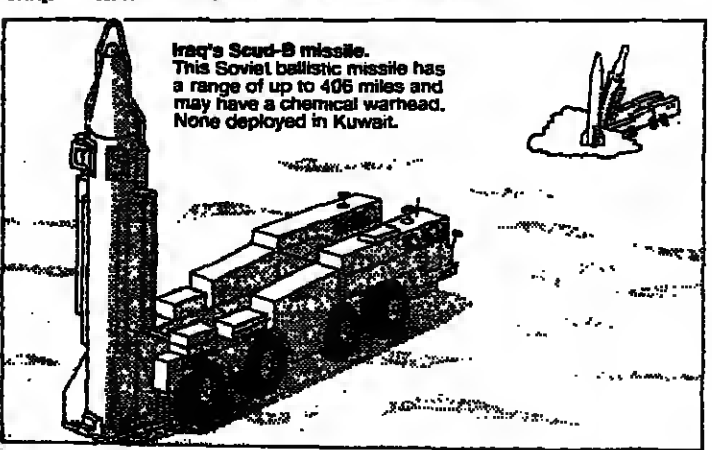
SINCE the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the American, British, Saudi and other Arab forces lined up against President Saddam Hussein have had to face up to a potential chemical threat from Soviet Scud B ballistic missiles.

The Scud B is 25 years old this year, and Iraq has between 350 and 400 of them. The Scud B has an extended range of between 375 and 406 miles.

There are estimated to be at least 10 launching systems for the renamed al-Hussein missile. Neither the Scud B nor the al-Hussein missiles offer Iraq much potential for an effective chemical attack. Iraqi officials have claimed the al-

Hussein, which flies further than the Scud B, can land within 500 yards of its target, double the accuracy of the Scud B. But that can still hardly be described as an accurate weapon system, especially if the target is an armoured unit on the move.

Official Western estimates are that a Scud B with a chemical warhead — 1,100lb chemical and 1,100lb high explosive — could kill everyone without proper chemical defensive clothing within a radius of 180 to 275 yards. Some would die within an area three to four times that radius. The al-Hussein would be half as effective.



Iraq's Scud-B missile. The Soviet ballistic missile has a range of up to 406 miles and may have a chemical warhead. None deployed in Kuwait.



Crown Prince Hassan is escorted by officers as he visits Asian refugees in the no man's land between Jordan and Iraq on Monday

INTERCEPTION
US marines seize Iraqi tea freighter

AN AMERICAN warship yesterday carried out the first interdiction of an Iraqi freighter, which had been tracked by British intelligence from Sri Lanka, where it had taken on a cargo of tea (Andrew McEwen writes from Jeddah).

The USS Goldsborough challenged the freighter Zambua as it approached the Gulf. It refused to stop and was boarded by US forces. It is not clear how this was done, but it would be normal to lower Marines on to the ship from helicopters. No resistance was offered, and the freighter was escorted into Muscat.

British intelligence had alerted London and Washington to the vessel's departure from Sri Lanka two weeks ago. It is believed that it was tracked by British Nimrod aircraft from Oman.

It was the first vessel to be prevented from delivering goods to Iraq since the UN embargo.

The Zambua was one of several Iraqi tea freighters which had been waiting in Sri Lanka for some time for permission to leave port.

Sources said Iraq had put pressure on Colombo to release them. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said last night: "We have been watching the Zambua for a long time; there is a regular tea traffic. They (the Sri Lankan authorities) decided to let this one sail and stop all following ones."

The government believes that the interdiction has closed one of the few remaining loopholes in the maritime blockade.

● **NEWARK:** US Customs said yesterday that they had detained the Al-Watayyah, a Kuwaiti container ship, and were examining the cargo to see if anything was destined for Iraq. (AP)

HURD GULF TRIP

Cook's tour stiffens resolve and wears out aircraft tyres

From ANDREW MCEWEN IN JEDDAH

DOUGLAS Hurd is expected back in London tonight after a tour of nine cities in six days which has worn out his staff and the tyres of his aircraft: all three spare wheels of the James McCudden, VC, his RAF VC10, had been used up by yesterday and the plane had to fly from Taif to Jeddah with its undercarriage down to keep the rubber cool.

The foreign secretary is to brief the cabinet tomorrow on the mood of the Gulf states. He may reasonably claim to have reassured those who needed reassurance and stiffened the resolve of those whose resolve needed stiffening, which was his aim. Cartoonists might see him as Hurd of the Desert in a *dishdashah* and dagger, with sand on his sandals. It has been a Cook's tour of Gulf palaces, opulent or vulgar according to taste, with a side trip to Yemen. A final stop in Jordan is planned for today.

It has not been pointless or self-indulgent. Mr Hurd has spoken well and sensibly at every stop, conveying an impression of authority and sound judgment. He left Gulf leaders in no doubt that Britain will do its utmost to help bring about the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait by peaceful means, but will be prepared to use force if sanctions fail.

There had been a risk that Britain would be eclipsed not just by the Americans but by the French, whose Gulf forces are much larger. Mr Hurd has found words to make up for the lack of troops.

In the comparative cool of Taif, where the exiled Kuwaiti government has set up its headquarters in

a mountain-top hotel, he told Sheikh Jaber Ahmed al-Sabah, the emir: "Sometimes the friend who acts quickly is the real friend."

Britain's image as a reliable friend of the Gulf had been most in need of brushing up in Qatar, where French influence has become dominant. Mr Hurd's visit, coming after that of Alan Clark, minister for defence procurement, helped make amends.

From the windows of the hotel where his aides stayed, a house built by the Qatari government for the Prince and Princess of Wales was visible. They used it only once three years ago for a few hours, without sleeping there, yet it remains, in Qatari eyes, their house. No one else has been allowed to stay there. Building on the affection this implied, Mr Hurd arranged for British Nimrod and Jaguars based in Oman to use Doha airbase. It was mainly a political gesture of little military value.

Britain will also give the Qatari training in the use of British anti-chemical warfare clothing. Lieutenant Colonel Alistair Campbell, son of a former defence secretary, was "scrambled from the grouse moors" (his own words) to become military liaison officer. The aim was to give confidence that the Qatari forces could withstand a chemical attack, but it might prove counter-productive. While the British equipment is said to be better in hot weather than American versions, it remains too heavy for the desert.

Mr Hurd was among old friends in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Oman, where Britain is seen as a benign protector. Sheikh Zayed Bin Sul-

tan an-Nahayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, said recently that anyone who claimed that Britain had colonised his country was a liar. This seemed a generous view, given that the emirates achieved full independence only in 1971.

British officials said there was full agreement with the Gulf rulers that President Saddam Hussein should be humiliated and that no face-saving solution should be allowed. None of his interlocutors confirmed to the press, however, that they held this view.

Youssef bin Alawi, foreign minister of Oman, who is well respected by British observers, argued in favour of a traditional Arab compromise. He believed that after a few more weeks of sanctions the Iraqi leader would be prepared to withdraw, in return for an adjustment to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border close to the Rumaila oilfield and possibly the right to use the islands of Bubiyan and Warba.

The caution and politeness of Gulf rulers could easily lead a British politician, even one of Mr Hurd's experience, to suppose that they were in agreement. Mr Alawi clearly was not.

From Oman, which has progressed from the third world to the first in 15 years, Mr Hurd flew to Yemen, the poorest country on the Saudi Arabian peninsula. The hotel used by his party suffered two power cuts in five hours. Yemen's poverty and political turbulence help explain its sympathy for Iraq, but it became clear during Mr Hurd's visit that Sanaa cannot afford to give Baghdad anything but token support.

COST OF WAR

French told of possible 100,000 death toll

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the French defence minister, yesterday broke the polite diplomatic silence about the potential human cost of war in the Gulf by predicting that it could claim at least 100,000 lives.

He also warned the West that it was a dangerous illusion to believe that full-scale combat with Iraq could somehow be kept at arm's length.

Although M Chevènement has been in trouble with his own government over his somewhat equivocal position as a founder member of the Franco-Iraqi Friendship Association, his trenchant remarks bring a sombre note of reality into a debate that so far has been curiously bloodless in France.

"I believe fervently in diplomacy and the objective of reaching a peaceful solution of this issue," he said. "But people who talk gaily about a nice clean conflict 5,000 kilometres from our frontiers have not thought about the consequences that may follow."

According to M Chevènement, there is no truth in rumours that his frankly expressed reservations about French support for the Bush administration's policies towards Iraq have brought him under pressure to resign. "The French people have a right to expect their minister of defence to take a detached view of events. I apply the policy that has been adopted by the government and there is no divergence whatever between my own position and that of the president of the republic."

Meanwhile, a senior official in the Palestine Liberation Organisation has claimed in the French press that President Saddam is prepared to negotiate a peaceful withdrawal from Kuwait. According to Abu Iyad, a saint in command to Yasser Arafat, the Iraqi leader would welcome a chance to negotiate a retreat with the West, provided he received guarantees about protection from attack by US forces in the Gulf.

"Saddam wants a negotiated settlement, but not one that looks like a surrender on his part," Abu Iyad told *Liberation*. The Iraqi leader is not convinced that, even if he withdraws and releases his Western hostages, he will escape a devastating attack by the rapidly increasing American military machine in the region.

Abu Iyad was asked if the threat by Iraqi officials that any attack on Iraq would result in a terrorist offensive against the West should be taken seriously. "Without any doubt," he said. "And more terrible than ever before."

In M Chevènement's view, the UN resolutions calling for the immediate evacuation of Kuwait and liberation of the hostages do not provide justification for "smashing" the Saddam regime.

● **NICOSIA:** Iraq immediately denied that it was willing to withdraw from most of Kuwait in return for assurances that the United States would not attack (Reuters reports). "Kuwait is a vital part of Iraq," the official Iraqi news agency said. "It is the branch that has returned to the origin for ever."

League chief's resignation highlights Arab divisions

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE resignation of Chedli Klibi as secretary-general of the League of Arab States, after he had held the post for more than a decade, has highlighted deep divisions in the Arab world caused by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

"His resignation neatly encapsulates the inability of the Arab world to deal with the crisis," said Brian Pridmore, director of the centre for Arab Gulf studies at Exeter University.

The league has moved quickly to announce a new acting chief, Assad al-Assad, aged 70, a Lebanese who was senior assistant secretary-general. League sources said that foreign ministers hoped to elect a secretary-general at a meeting scheduled for Tunis from September 17 to 19. But it will be difficult finding a new head, and it could take years for the 45-year-

old organisation to re-establish its credibility as a forum for settling inter-Arab disputes.

"The Arab League has demonstrably failed in the greatest crisis it's ever faced," said Mr Pridmore. "I don't think it's got a future," he added.

Arab diplomats said Mr Klibi, who is 66 tomorrow, was angered by criticism from Syria and Saudi Arabia that he had not taken a tough enough stand against Iraq during the foreign ministers' meeting last weekend in Cairo. They are said to have accused him of failing to persuade more Arab states to send troops to the Gulf.

So far only Egyptian, Syrian and Moroccan troops have arrived to line up alongside the US-led multinational forces. Twelve of the league's 21 members had endorsed an earlier resolution to dispatch forces to the Gulf. Iraq boycotted last weekend's

meeting, and seven members stayed away, including Mr Klibi's own country, Tunisia, which has taken a pro-Iraq line. For Mr Klibi, the turnout must have been depressing, coming as it did less than a year after he oversaw the formal return to the fold of Egypt, its most populous state.

Iraq, meanwhile, blames Mr Klibi's resignation on Egypt and Saudi Arabia, which it said were trying to turn the league into "an American tool". It was Iraq, ironically, a former ally of Egypt in the Arab Co-operation Council, that pushed for Cairo's return to the league after a ten-year absence because of the Camp David treaty.

League officials say 13 members have agreed to attend a scheduled meeting on September 10 in Cairo, where they intend to make the league's permanent base. Analysts say it is possible that Iraq and its allies would establish a

rival league based in Baghdad or Tunis, which would formalise the polarisation of the Arab world.

The league's inability to defuse the Gulf conflict has been reflected in smaller groupings in the Arab world. The five-member Arab Maghreb Union, which includes Mauritania, has been struggling to find a unified response. Morocco, which is pro-Western, has dispatched forces to the Gulf, Tunisia has backed Iraq, Algeria has condemned equally Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the build-up of Western forces in the Gulf, while Libya has kept a foot in both camps.

The Palestinians are perhaps the most divided over the conflict. Those in the Israeli occupied territories have rallied behind Iraq, while a growing number of Palestinians in Kuwait are said to be hoping for the overthrow of President Saddam Hussein, whom

they hold responsible for their loss of livelihoods and life savings. But even in Kuwait there are divisions, with reports that some Palestinians have joined Kuwaiti resistance groups while others have joined Iraq's army.

One Palestinian woman, Noha, aged 26, who lived in Kuwait all her life, until she fled last week, said that Palestinian women were praying with Kuwaitis for the Iraqi leader's assassination. "I never felt it was home, but it was a good life and the Iraqis have ruined it," said Noha, who was manageress of the Body Shop in Kuwait. She said she was furious with Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, for siding with Iraq. "It has caused a terrible backlash against Palestinians in the Gulf. If ever the emir returns, I believe he will give us back our savings, but then he'll throw us out because of Arafat."

THE INVASION OF KUWAIT: INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE

Grateful Bush to forgive Egypt its £3bn military debt

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush has decided to forgive Egypt its entire \$7 billion (£3.75 billion) military debt in recognition of President Mubarak's key role in rallying Arab opposition to Iraq, the White House announced yesterday.

The move, which must be approved by Congress, was both "a symbol of our appreciation for the leadership he has provided" and compensation for the financial cost of the Gulf conflict to Egypt, said Martin Fitzwater, the White House press secretary. He denied there was any *quid pro quo*, such as basing B-52 bombers in Egypt or the dispatch of more Egyptian troops to Saudi Arabia.

Israel has indicated that it would seek similar treatment were Egypt's military debt to be forgiven. Mr Fitzwater said requests for debt forgiveness from other nations would be considered, but he did not consider this a precedent.

In another development, President Bush intervened in a potentially serious dispute between the US military and the Saudi government over the right of American forces to launch offensive operations against Iraq without the permission of their Saudi hosts.

Reports here yesterday also

disclosed that the US has secretly deployed combat aircraft in a number of Gulf nations, including Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates — a significant development given the extreme sensitivity of these states to a US military presence on their soil.

James Baker, the US Secretary of State, meanwhile, prepared to go before the House foreign affairs committee yesterday afternoon, the first top official to face detailed questioning by a congressional committee on the administration's handling of the Gulf conflict since Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2.

Nicholas Brady, the treasury secretary, earlier left for Asia to seek greater support from nations like Japan and South Korea. Mr Baker leaves for Europe tomorrow on a similar mission.

Reflecting a strongly held view in Congress, Richard Gephardt, the House Democratic leader, said on his return from a fact-finding visit to the Gulf on Monday night that the US deserved greater financial support from other countries and that its NATO allies should commit ground troops to the region.

The Washington Post re-

ported that Mr Bush called Bandar bin Sultan, the Saudi ambassador, to the White House late last week after Norman Schwarzkopf, the US military commander in Saudi Arabia, strongly objected to an assertion by Khalid bin Sultan, his Saudi counterpart, that King Fahd's approval would be required before US troops based in his kingdom could mount offensive operations against Iraq.

Mr Bush reportedly relayed US military fears that such a requirement could leave American forces hamstringed in certain situations, while the ambassador claimed that US forces had been invited into the kingdom on the clear understanding that their role was defensive.

Officials said the issue was deferred, but not resolved, with the White House emphasizing that the strategy of giving the trade embargo time to work precluded a military offensive for the time being.

US and Saudi officials told The New York Times that several Gulf nations had quietly accepted US combat aircraft to help defend Saudi Arabia because the kingdom's airfields were now full.

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Thirsty work: A soldier of the US 82nd Airborne Division has his hands full as he stocks up with some of the thousands of cans of locally made Coca-Cola given away from a trailer to counter the desert heat at his barracks in Saudi Arabia yesterday

TUC CONGRESS

Kinnock says UN must back use of military force

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MILITARY action against President Saddam Hussein of Iraq must have the authority of the United Nations, because his defeat must be a victory for the world community, Neil Kinnock believes.

The Labour leader told the Trades Union Congress annual conference in Blackpool yesterday that it had been right to respond to Iraqi aggression with UN sanctions and a blockade, and with the commitment of multinational forces.

Unrelenting pressure must be sustained under the terms of UN resolutions, he said. "And if force is necessary to implement the policy, that too should have the authority of the UN."

Mr Kinnock's remarks were clear confirmation that the government will face domestic opposition if it backs America in an independent strike against Iraq.

Margaret Thatcher's contention that the UN Charter authorises military action without further recourse to the UN is causing misgivings among her political opponents which may surface in the debate starting in Parliament tomorrow.

Mr Kinnock said the sudden and brutal invasion of Kuwait must continue to attract unreserved condemnation and implacable opposition. However, UN authority

for the use of force was a matter not of sentiment, but of strategic necessity.

"Saddam Hussein has challenged the world community. His defeat must be a victory for the world community. If the outcome of this crisis is to be enduring stability in the region... and to provide no benefit for Saddam Hussein, not even some sort of gain for his reputation in the Arab world, it must be clear to all that action is taken with the authority of the United Nations."

Mr Kinnock said this must be clear to President Saddam, who must get out of Kuwait, release all hostages and get no spoils from his aggression. "And clear, too, to any regime any time, anywhere, that tries to emulate the actions of Saddam Hussein that they will face the same determination to ensure that aggression will not pay."

David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, said yesterday that the Gulf conflict would increase poll tax bills. He said oil price increases would add at least £27 million to the fuel costs of local authorities. The government must take account of this in its grant distribution next year or more increases in tax bills would be inevitable.

Martin Jacques, page 10

MOSCOW

Kremlin seeking an overall peace accord in region

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

As President Gorbachev's new press spokesman tried yesterday to dispel the impression that Moscow was a reluctant participant in Sunday's mini-summit in Helsinki, his foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, said the meeting would be "a major milestone on the road to resolving the Gulf crisis". He indicated that the Soviet leader would be taking wide-ranging proposals that could provide a basis for a comprehensive Middle East settlement and include Soviet recognition of Israel.

Vitali Ignatenko emphasised that Mr Gorbachev attached great importance to the Helsinki meeting, which he saw as a "follow-up to discussions at Malta and Camp David". He said the Soviet leader would arrive in the Finnish capital on Saturday evening and return to Moscow late on Sunday.

Although the agenda has been described as unstruc-

ured, Mr Ignatenko said that Moscow was "prepared to discuss ways of intensifying UN activity to ease tension in the Gulf". Mr Shevardnadze, opening an international conference on Asia and the Pacific in Vladivostok held firmly to the official Soviet line of "no surrender to Iraqi aggression, but no use of military force either". He said there was no question of Moscow accepting any resolution of the current Gulf conflict "that would fall short of restoring the sovereignty, territorial integrity and legitimate government of Kuwait".

Hinting that Moscow would aim for the withdrawal of all forces, including probably US forces, from the zone of conflict, he said: "It is essential to pursue our objective through non-military means and in a way that would remove the military presence of other countries."

"One of the proposals would have the Iraqi troops in Kuwait replaced by a UN peace-keeping force and the extra-regional military presence by an inter-Arab troop contingent," he said.

Returning to the old Soviet proposal for an international conference to resolve the whole Middle East problem, he suggested that Israeli participation "could exert a positive influence on the overall situation in the Middle East and on efforts to defuse the crisis in the Persian Gulf."

"For its part the Soviet Union would not leave without response an Israeli move along these lines and might take a fresh look at the issue of Soviet-Israeli relations." The two countries have had no diplomatic relations since 1967, but have set up commercial offices in each other's capitals with talk of direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv. The emigration of Soviet Jews reached a record level in August.

While Israel, and probably Washington, may be unimpressed by Mr Shevardnadze's overture, it is likely to be regarded more kindly in Iraq. President Saddam's first "initiative" included proposals that the Gulf crisis should be solved in the framework of Middle East problems generally.

ASIAN GAMES

Peking wants invader and invaded to play

FROM AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE IN PEKING

ORGANISERS want both Iraq and Kuwait to attend the Asian Games and are playing down a boycott threat over the Gulf confrontation.

All 38 member countries and territories of the Olympic Council of Asia, which controls the games, have been invited to attend. However, no list of participating nations has been completed for the games, from September 22 to October 7.

Peking is waiting, powerless, for an opinion poll of council members on whether to bar Iraq in an attempt to

head off a boycott by other Middle Eastern nations. C. L. Mehta, secretary-general of the council, said yesterday the matter could be raised at an emergency council meeting in Peking on Saturday, even though Iraq has opposed the poll, calling it unofficial and therefore invalid.

Arab diplomats here say Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar are pushing hardest for Iraq's exclusion.

There are no Kuwaiti athletes in the Iraqi games team.

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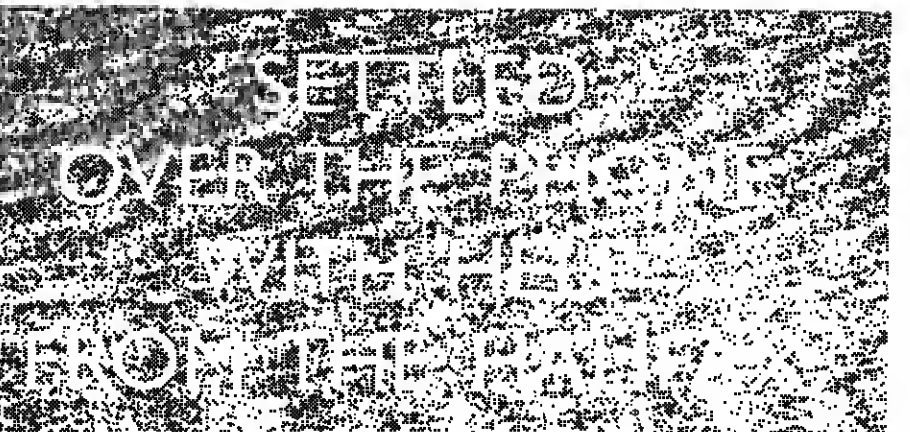
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This fragile Gulf accord

Martin Jacques

Tomorrow's parliamentary debate on the Gulf will surely underline the remarkable political unanimity in the British response so far. From the outset, the government and Labour have pursued an almost identical approach. The reason is twofold. First, and quite rightly, Labour has recognised, like Mrs Thatcher, that Saddam Hussein's aggression cannot go unheeded. If he succeeds, much worse might follow, and not only in the Middle East. That is why Labour has backed the UN resolutions, the American actions, and the government's decision to send warships and aircraft.

The other factor may be secondary, but is not insignificant. The Labour leadership is anxious to minimise the distance between itself and Mrs Thatcher. It wants to avoid a "Gulf factor" which would allow the prime minister to bask in patriotic glory while Labour is cast into outer darkness. Labour's sensitivity on this score is obvious. The memory of the Falklands is receding, but at times like this still vivid. And there is a lingering feeling — largely, though not exclusively, a product of the Eighties — that Labour is weak on defence. Mr Kinnock has spent much of the last three years trying to dispel this idea: he is hardly going to allow a straightforward issue like the Gulf to get in his way now.

But underlying the unanimity is another factor. The Gulf is the first great confrontation of the post-cold-war era. In little more than a year, the landscape of post-war international relations has been transformed. Previously, the conflict between East and West, between opposing ideological systems, was the framework for domestic political divisions and arguments, both here and elsewhere. All that has gone. Suddenly the ideological divide has been removed from international relations. The old left-right polarity has lost much of its force.

That is why the voice of the "anti-war" left, led by Tony Benn, remains weak. Knee-jerk anti-Americanism no longer has the same force; nor does its counterpart, turning a blind eye to the indiscretions of Third World dictators. We now live in a far more complex world. Of course, Labour always stood unambiguously on the western side of the cold war cleavage, but it embraced many who refused to go the whole hog.

One of the most impressive features of the American response to the Gulf crisis has been its determination from the outset to establish a global consensus aimed at isolating Saddam Hussein. It sought Soviet backing for the initial UN resolution; it tried to establish the widest possible military presence in the Gulf.

and it has carefully stayed within the boundaries of UN legitimacy.

This matters, not just for the Gulf, but for the character of the post-cold-war international order. Yet one can perceive two tendencies in the Gulf confrontation, both here and in America. One is the Bush response, to date careful, diligent, always aimed at international consensus. The other response sees in the Gulf, after the trauma of 1989, the opportunity for America to assert its status as the one military superpower. Henry Kissinger speaks for this position and so, up to a point, does Mrs Thatcher, when she refers to the US as the "world's policeman", berates our European allies for not doing enough, and clearly delights in the new opportunity to articulate the special relationship.

As long as Gulf strategy is dominated by making sanctions stick and continuing the military build-up, these issues are on ice. The day of reckoning will come, if at all, with military intervention. Over the last week, the debate has revolved around Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, and whether or not this allows unilateral military action.

This largely misses the point. If America acts unilaterally along the lines advocated by Dr Kissinger, the carefully constructed international consensus will fall apart overnight. The American action will be opposed by the Soviet Union, China and perhaps France, which are all permanent members of the UN Security Council. Instead of being relatively isolated, Saddam will become the champion of anti-imperialism and the Third World. As a result, the world will be dangerously split, for the first time, between rich and poor, North and South. And, of course, it is likely, as Zbigniew Brzezinski has argued, that the US would become bogged down for many years in a Middle Eastern morass.

This is the scenario most likely to destroy the political consensus here. Although one assumes that Mrs Thatcher would support unilateral American military action, Labour is unlikely to, certainly if its present emphasis on the United Nations is anything to judge by. As far as the domestic political fallout is concerned, much would then depend on what happened. A swift Rambo-style strike would doubtless help Mrs Thatcher, but if anything went badly wrong, or if the conflict were prolonged, the political consequences would be much less clear-cut.

One must hope it will not come to that. Sanctions against Iraq must be given a chance to work. That will take months rather than weeks. If force becomes necessary, as it may well, then it should rest on a similarly broad consensus through the UN. The alternative fills one with fear for the future of the post-cold-war era.

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

CONTINUING our serialisation of Lord Yu's diaries. In this extract, he tells how the cabinet came under great stress of the last election, the pressure of fighting the campaign greatly interfering with the vital task of writing their private diaries by the publishers' deadline.

May 10, 1987: "I don't know what I'd do without you, David," the prime minister whispered as we were about to go into cabinet. Then she lowered her voice still further and hissed, "But whatever you do, don't tell Norman I said that." The words lodged in my brain long enough for me to draw out my notebook and Parker from my pocket to jot them down for posterity. We sat around the cabinet table. Every one seemed to be smiling to themselves and filling in their diaries. I happened to glance over Norman's shoulder to see what he was writing. It was: "I don't know what I'd do without you, Norman, but whatever you do, don't tell David I said that." Disappointed, I looked the other way, managing to catch sight of what Geoffrey was writing. It was: "I don't know what I'd do without you, Geoffrey, but whatever you do, don't tell Willie I said that."

May 15, 1987: "A few crucial words about the future of our country," announced the prime minister at our meeting today. Few of us had the time to look up. The election campaign has been so hectic that most of us were taking a well-earned opportunity to bring our diaries up to date. The prime minister noisily cleared her throat and banged her gavel on the table to attract our attention. "Silly me, but I can never remember," said Willie, briefly looking up from his diary, "does 'crucial' have an 's' or a 'c', and does anyone know the date? Thanks awfully, too kind."

May 17, 1987: The polls look gloomy. Norman Fowler was down in the mouth. "No one's going to buy my autobiography if we're in opposition," he confided. "Cheer up," I said, slapping him on the back. "No one's going to buy it if we're in power either." I asked him what he planned to call it. "I thought about that for some time before it suddenly hit me that it should

be called something marvellously bold. 'Norman Fowler' is pretty snappy, don't you think?" "Too forgettable," I advised, sympathetically. "Why not call it something catchy yet appropriate, like 'No-one Fowler'?" He seemed grateful.

May 19, 1987: Today the prime minister called for a change of strategy. "I do hope you'll beg my pardon," said Willie, "but is that with a 'j'?" The prime minister declared that she was determined to smarten up the scruffy members of her cabinet. "Look at those cuffs, Kenneth!" she said to Ken Clarke. "What have you got on them?" Ken looked crestfallen as we all gazed in horror at his inky cuffs. "It's my diary, prime minister," he said "handier than lugging a notebook around, and my tailor assures me these cuffs are fully compatible with all leading brands of computer printers."

May 25, 1987: Our pollsters tell us that things are looking decidedly shaky. Norman Tebbit seemed out of sorts. He told me he was disillusioned with the election and has even stopped writing his diary. I held him by the lapels and gave him a good talking-to. "Norman," I said, "Norman, how much are your diaries worth? How much will they be worth if we lose this election? You'll be broke. I'll be broke. The whole publishing industry will be broke! It's your diary's future and my diary's future and the future of every diary reader in this flaming country! Do you really want them to have to read the cabinet diaries of Gerald Kaufman or John Prescott? Well, do you?" When I had finished, he asked if he could borrow my pen, took out his diary and began to write. I knew then that we would win.

May 30, 1987: I asked a cabinet colleague how his election diary is going. "Much better," he said, "since I cancelled my election addresses to keep it up to date." "Shove a little family colour in," I advised him. "Readers love it." A busy man, he asked me if by any chance I could remember the names of his wife and children, if any. I told him to ask Central Office, they have that sort of information at their fingertips. In the political diary publishing game, these little human details are all important.

Anne McElvay on the Eastern recrimination against those who went along with communism

Germans with a new burden of guilt

EAST GERMANY'S economy is in tatters. Unemployment is spiralling upwards, and the progress of German unity has had to be accelerated to an ungainly gallop to prevent this unhappy relic of a state collapsing into anarchy. But to attend one of the more cultured dinner-parties in Germany these days is to discover that the exigencies of *Tagespolitik* have been relegated to the status of a mere *hors d'oeuvre*.

Many people are preoccupied instead by a slim volume of introspective prose written more than ten years ago, which has caused intellectual writers the second time in less than half a century on the subjects of guilt, responsibility and the right to cast the first stone.

The source of this outbreak of national soul-searching is an autobiographical work by East Germany's most renowned writer, Christa Wolf, entitled *Was bleibt* ("What remains"), in which she recounts how she was spied on by the Stasi in 1979. This she has in common with 6 million other East Germans, whose habits, contacts and misdemeanours figure in the secret police files now under lock and key in the state archives.

Frau Wolf was one of those who

inspired the tentative opposition movement long before last autumn's quiet revolution, but she agreed to publish this account only months after all threats to her safety and standard of living were removed. Prominent critics in the influential *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* and other newspapers now accuse her of fellow-travelling, and remind their readers that she stayed in the Communist Party even while mounting temperate campaigns of support for artists and writers victimised by the Honecker regime. Her defenders, meanwhile, say her works are critical accounts of life under socialism, and point to her stirring speeches last November.

The debate which began with conflicting book reviews has developed into a clash of Titans. Günter Grass, who is an expert on the subject of German guilt (having produced a panoply of novels on the subject) has leapt to her defence. He says that well-hunched literary hacks, who have been insulated from difficult moral decisions by the privilege of life in a wealthy Western democracy, have no right to point the finger at the writers from the East who produced impressive works of literature under the strictures of dictatorship.

"Pity the land that has no heroes," cries the student in Brecht's *Galileo*, on discovering that his mentor is a coward. East Germany would dearly like to produce a few heroes to march into the annals of history, but, alas, that is not how it was. The quiet revolution was a timid, bloodless affair: its prime movers were softly-spoken intellectuals, whose demands were not for the heads of their oppressors but for "open dialogue". Who remembers the serious Jens Reich, or the mousey Barbel Bohley now?

This is not the fault of the reformers alone, nor of Christa Wolf for that matter. Unlike the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and Poland, where opposition to or complicity with the regime were clear, East Germany's opposition was clad in hues of grey.

Flamboyant figures such as the songwriter Wolf Biermann were sent packing to the West in 1976. Those who chose to stay and fight took the lesson to heart and followed the policy of small steps to reform. Indeed the steps were so small that they changed nothing. In the end, the regime collapsed because it was suffering from chronic political anaemia, not because of the tentative criticisms of writers. The result, as Herr

Biermann remarked, was a revolution without revolutionaries, in contrast to the German tradition of revolutionaries without a revolution.

The similarities with the ducking and weaving in cultural circles that followed the collapse of the Third Reich are disconcerting. So is the arrogance of West German commentators who are beneficiaries not of Herr Graff's "grace of a late birth", but of the grace of a geographically favourable one. The search for scapegoats is under way, and West Germany, itself built on compromise, has been alarmingly quick and unforgiving in its scrutiny.

Frau Wolf has so far chosen to ignore the attacks on her, but she has said that the socialist years will have to be written about in new novels like her own *Kindheitsmuster* ("A Model Childhood"), which concerns the perversion of morality and belief under the Nazis.

She and other writers now face their greatest challenge: as Heine asked, if one is used to the censor, how does one write when he has gone? Honest writers will not avoid some painful examination of their past self-deceptions; but this is a necessary process of recovery and growth.

Perhaps because West German politics has become such a boring, consensual affair, the public loves a good, long-winded row conducted with spleen in the newspapers. This one is turning into the literary equivalent of the *Historikerstreit* of two years ago, when eminent professors scuffled over the correct way to chronicle the Nazi years.

But the more undercurrent of the debate is about the need to apportion blame. Is it enough to tolerate Christa Wolf for tolerating a regime because she believed in a system? Was she right to remain in the East under the censor, or were the true heroes those who headed for the exiled literary colony in Hamburg? Was the fault all with the Stasi and Erich Honecker, or do East Germans now exaggerate their suffering to excuse their own docility? What of the West German Social Democrats, who embraced the communists of the East as allies? What about Chancellor Kohl, who greeted Erich Honecker with a red carpet and military honours in Bonn?

In the years to come, there will be more quarrels over the moral issues, and many more novels about guilt will be written in Germany.

The unions need Kinnock more than he needs them

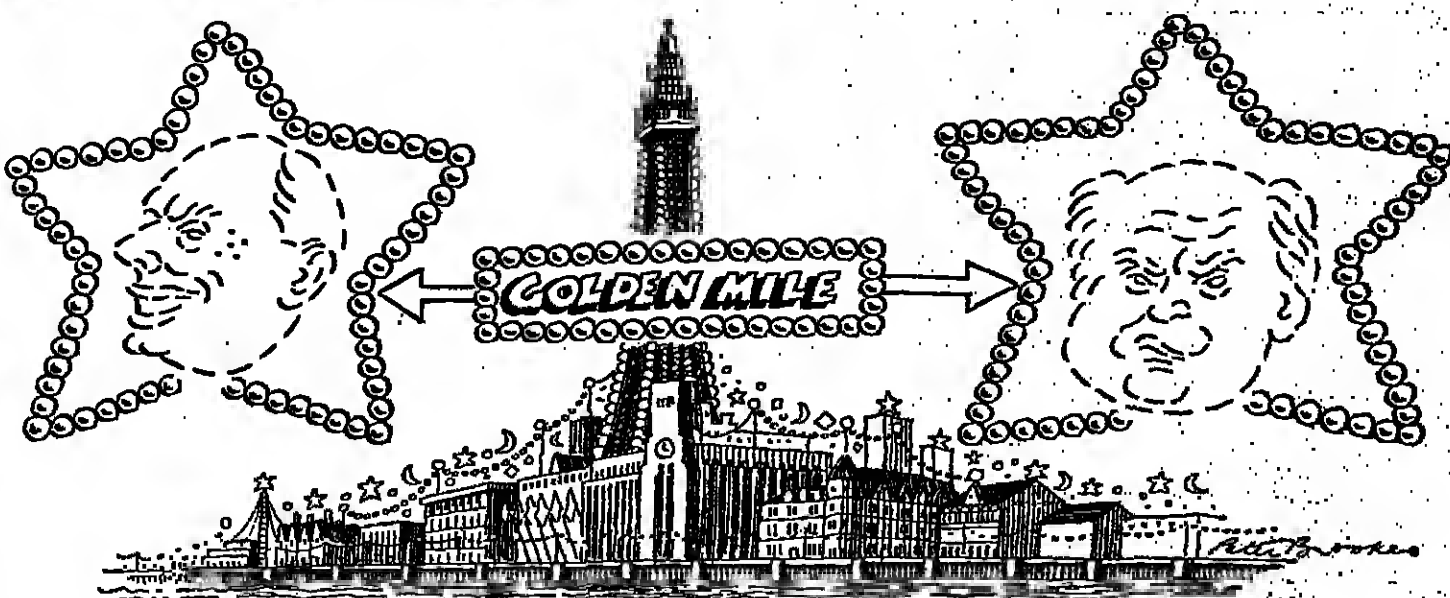
Labour's relationship with the unions which founded and sustain it has been summed up recently in Neil Kinnock's phrase "Fairness, not favours", and in the words of John Edmonds of the GMB: "Influence, not power". The significance is their similarity: these days, either man could have used either phrase.

Things used to be very different. When Labour was led in power, what the unions said ruled. When a union like the TGWU wanted a piece of legislation, it was passed. When a union wanted a dispute settled over beer and sandwiches at No 10, it was. No longer. The results of that unequal relationship were the strikes of the winter of discontent in 1978-9. Labour's election defeat and the ushering in of the Thatcher years.

In the early 1980s, little changed. Hard though it is to believe now, few in either the Labour party or the unions thought the Conservative government would last more than one term. Labour's second defeat, in 1983, forced radical reassessments by the whole movement. The unions became more pragmatic and less political, while the Labour party elected the realistic Neil Kinnock as its leader.

The Labour party is strongly and deeply rooted in the unions. But the relationship is not constant or immune to change. Generally, the unions have served Labour well over the years. These roots give the party strength and solidity, income and organisation. But in various degrees they also cause it pain and trouble.

When general elections come round, the unions — or at least the handful which are the principal Labour paymasters, such as the TGWU, the GMB and NUP — have to deliver into their coffers, which are now under strain as membership continues to fall. Although Labour can never compete financially with the Conservatives, these unions do put Labour's show on the electoral road. Union funding does of course leave the party open to Conservative attacks like that by the employment secretary, Michael Howard, this week (only the latest in a long line), but it is hard



With nowhere else for the TUC to go, Philip Bassett reports on a paymaster no longer calling the tune

to imagine Labour functioning without it. In this sense, as is repeated endlessly at regional and constituency level, the union link is hugely beneficial to Labour.

But the damage done to the party in 1979 was so great that when Mr Kinnock was elected leader, reshaping the relationship was a vital task. Not his first — he had other boils to lance first, such as Militant — but after the miners' strike, after gradually securing control of the party's executive, largely with the help of the union representatives on it, he had to turn to the unions.

What he did, he did quietly and gradually: distancing himself from the cozier of union leaders, seeing that their names were removed from the lists of party platform speakers in the 1987 election, all but formally ending the regular meetings of the 1970s-style TUC/Labour Party Liaison Committee, letting his sharp-suited aides make clear in private not only that Labour could do without the unions, but that it might do better for itself in the process. The party, rather than the

unions, began to call the shots. Some close to Kinnock realised that since the unions had nowhere else to go, there was no reason to do things on their terms. Instead, the unions could do things on terms established by the party leadership.

The party had to be careful, though, for it still needed the unions' money and power. This year's structural changes in the party are typical of the careful approach. Using the unions' own voting strength, the net effect of the changes will be to reduce union power in the constituencies and to reduce the power of the block votes at party conferences. Yet the leadership was determined to achieve this without yielding power to constituency activists, who are often unrepresentative.

Kinnock's detractors have often charged him with breaking the party's links with the unions; indeed, some of his advisers have urged him to do just that. Instead he is reshaping the relationship. As he does so, power is moving from the trade union leaders to the party leader.

Of course, there are loud protests. Arthur Scargill's cry at the TUC this week that Labour, like the Conservatives, could grant special favours and privileges to the class that supports it is only the latest, and most public expression of this unease, especially on the union left. The unsuccessful rear-guard action by left-led unions against Labour's new policy on employment and trade union law may be one of the last concerted pushes against the new deal.

The relationship is no longer a matter of money for you, preferential treatment for us. Mr Kinnock's message to the unions is that their best chance of advantage lies in success for the party. He is urging them to stick by Labour and do what the party says, so that they will be well placed if Labour wins power. He will not accept a shopping list of demands. Nor does he consider himself in thrall to the unions. He will be grateful for support, but he is making no promises. Will it work? Can this new equilibrium be sustained? The crucial ques-

tion is who wins the next general election. If Labour wins, its implicit promise is that this relationship will flourish; though not like that of the 1970s.

If Labour loses, of course, all bets are off. Most people in the party believe that Neil Kinnock's own future as party leader would be in doubt, and he might be the first to ask that question, though he is not much of a quitter. If he were to fall — or be pushed — onto his sword, then a whole range of policies, including the relationship with the unions, would be thoroughly re-examined. Depending on which wing of the party provided the new leader, Kinnock's work might be the basis for the future or might be rejected outright.

Perhaps the most graphic encapsulation of the present relationship came this week from Tony Blair, the party's employment spokesman. As Arthur Scargill roared from the conference rostrum against Labour's new union law policies, Mr Blair could only just suppress his famous grin. How lucky he was: he had got his policy through — and been opposed by Arthur Scargill into the bargain.

The author, BBC TV labour correspondent, joins The Times as industrial editor this month.

Ridder rides to the rescue

Innovative they may be, but if the Liberal Democrats spot a trend, they are sure to follow it. Earlier this year the Tories appointed Richard Wirthlin, who masterminded Ronald Reagan's two successful presidential campaigns, to help Mrs Thatcher win a fourth term. Labour's Peter Mandelson has sought advice from leading Democrats, including Jesse Jackson. Now Paddy Ashdown and friends have come up with an American spin doctor to advise them how to market their product — and a better example of the blind leading the blind would be hard to imagine.

Step forward, Rick Ridder. While not a household name in Britain, Ridder is well known in America as the man behind Gary Hart's disastrous bid for the Democratic presidential nomination in which an early lead-point lead in the opinion polls turned into a shambles of blunders and recriminations.

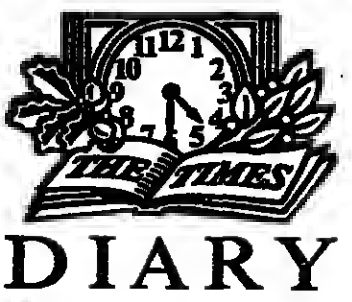
The news that Ridder has been invited to help train party campaigners at next week's Liberal Democrat conference in Blackpool met with disbelief among the party's own MPs yesterday. Even the Lib-Dem president, Charles Kennedy, confessed to being baffled — and not consulted — about the choice. "I had no idea he was coming or who invited him," he admits. "But it is not for a Kennedy to comment on the abilities of anyone acting for a former Democratic contender." Sir Cyril Smith was less diplomatic. "It might be interesting to hear what he has to say, and then do precisely the opposite."

One might expect the Tory whips' office to be a hive of activity before the recall of Parliament, and indeed a sign has appeared on their door warning MPs to keep out. "Chasing in progress," it declares, "unwilling to break their holidays on relax. The sign is not a reference to the pursuit of recall-candid MPs for tomorrow's debate, but a builders' term for replacing electric wiring in walls."

Not too corny While the Queen Mother was graciously pleased to loan her favourite Monet to the Royal Academy exhibition, which opens on Friday, the late Robert Holmes à Court was less successful. The Australian tycoon offered to lend his "Cornstack (misty effect)", but Professor Paul Tucker, the organiser, declined on the grounds that the show already featured a dozen different cornstack paintings. Then, only a week



before the opening, Tucker was suddenly faced with a shortage of cornstacks as four American owners pulled out.



"Last Friday we got a fax from Mr Holmes à Court saying he would fly his painting from Perth to London at his own expense and pay the insurance," says Tucker. "He really wanted it in the exhibition. I was delighted. Next day he was dead."

Tucker, of the University of Massachusetts, travelled the globe seeking Monet paintings for the show. He now has no idea if the offer is still open, but space is reserved in the hope that the picture will arrive by Friday. Meanwhile, Tucker is wondering whether the Queen Mother will rearrange the paintings at Clarence House while her favourite picture is on loan to the three-month exhibition. "It normally hangs over the fireplace in the sitting room, and I am told she gazes at it every day before going in to lunch. I was there last week seeing her. Comptroller, Sir Alastair Aird, who arranged the show, is a gaping hole where it usually hangs."

Royal rupture

Efforts by Italian royalists to have the remains of their last two kings returned to Italy have been made more difficult by the English historian,

Denis Mack Smith. In *Italy and its Monarchy*, recently published in Rome, he claims that its tales of royal skulduggery and lechery have for the first time revealed the true nature of the Italian kings to the Italian people. "The monarchy has been protected from criticism for 150 years," he says.

Largely because of Mack Smith's book, the Italians have shelved plans to bring back from Alexandria the remains of Victor Emmanuel III, who abdicated in 1946, and Umberto II, who briefly succeeded him and is buried in France. "There is also a constitutional problem," says Mack Smith. "The 1946 constitution says that no male heir to the house of Savoy can return to Italy." Whether this should be interpreted as applying also to their remains is the subject of fierce debate. Royalists would like a full-blown ceremony at the Pantheon in Rome, where previous kings are buried. "The old boys would parade and there would be a hell of a fuss," says Mack Smith. With cool academic blood flowing in his veins, Mack Smith believes a quiet ceremony in Piedmont would be more seemly.

Voice of the people

Peter Ackroyd's new biography of Charles Dickens — which has had mixed reviews — has sparked the first scholarly attempt to resolve the question of how Dickens spoke. While other eminent Victorians such as Tennyson just made it into the era of recording, Dickens was about 20 years too early; so the timbre of the great man's voice was lost to posterity.

Ackroyd says: "I did a lot of research and deduced that he had a slightly metallic voice. Despite

being born in Chatham, he had very little trace of a Kent accent." He dismisses A.N. Wilson's suggestion that Dickens had a Cockney accent, although he may often have slipped into one for dramatic effect during his public readings. John Sessions, a fervent Dickensian, has adapted Ackroyd's findings for his own readings on next weekend's *South Bank Show*.

"I believe he also had a burr, and because he was often nervous spoke in a halting voice," says Sessions. But, with a blithe disregard for literary reputations, he adds: "He was a dreadful social climber and expunged an awful lot of his accent to hide all trace of his origins."

Almost bushed

Like the optimists in 1914, John Tusa, head of BBC World Service, is keeping his fingers crossed that the Gulf crisis is over before Christmas. A sustained campaign, he fears, could stretch his already strained resources to breaking point.

Since the invasion of Kuwait, Arabic broadcasts have been increased by 90 minutes to ten and a half hours a day. Because of Iraqi jamming attempts, the signal has been boosted, increasing the Bush House electricity bill. So far Bush House has been able to bankroll the increased coverage out of existing funds, but its accountants calculate it can keep it up until late November.

Tusa declines to discuss the financial aspects publicly. But the Foreign Office will surely get the message when he declares: "For untold numbers we are a lifeline service in a time of crisis. Our Arabic service is the only network giving a full picture of events."

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SNAKES AND HEDGEHOGS

Boris Yeltsin's demand for the heads of the Soviet prime minister, Nikolai Ryzhkov, and his government presents President Gorbachev with the kind of straight public choice he abhors. Mr Gorbachev has only himself to blame for his predicament. His preference for handling the economy by round-about methods, exemplified in the economically illiterate concept of the "planned market", has been disastrous. For weeks, Mr Yeltsin has been saying that the Soviet government had lost the confidence of the people. Last month, Mr Ryzhkov even offered to serve as scapegoat. By hesitating, Mr Gorbachev has invited this embarrassing challenge to his authority.

At immediate issue are two rival plans for the economic reconstruction of the Soviet Union and the transition to a market economy. One is based on a fast-track "500 days" dash for the marketplace devised by Mr Yeltsin's economic advisers, the other on Mr Ryzhkov's gradualist plans, faithful to central control. True to form, Mr Gorbachev wants to take the "best elements" of both. Mr Yeltsin asserts that they can no more be mated than can "a snake with a hedgehog".

Secure in his elected position as head of the Russian Federation, Mr Yeltsin is calling on the Soviet president to make a complete break not only with the command economy, but with his preferred style of government. The irony is that Mr Gorbachev has gone seven-eighths of the way, setting up a joint commission to work on the "500 days" programme, which he has rechristened the Shatalin plan after one of his own advisers. But he has refused to recognise that the logical consequence of adopting the plan would be shedding Mr Ryzhkov.

Mr Yeltsin cannot lose. If Mr Gorbachev stalls, the Russian Federation will press ahead with his programme for switching to a market economy without bothering to reach agreement with the central government. Fortune favours the bold: Mr Yeltsin, already the most popular politician in the Soviet Union, would confirm his reputation for setting the pace while the Kremlin prevaricates.

Mr Gorbachev might seem to have every-

thing to gain by sacrificing Mr Ryzhkov, whose prescriptions have nobody's support, in favour of a working alliance with Mr Yeltsin. His reluctance to be drawn into what he has called "the luxury of a major reshuffle" is, however, due to more than personal rivalry and the shock of being on the receiving end of an ultimatum. The confrontation over economic policy is integrally linked with negotiations over the future distribution of power (and assets) between the centre and the 15 republics. At issue is the shape of the Union.

So far, Mr Gorbachev has taken a maximalist position on central control, not only of foreign and defence policy (which are less in dispute) but of macro-economic policy. His immediate response to Mr Yeltsin's ultimatum has been to appoint three trusted advisers to oversee sensitive areas of the economy, underlining his disinclination to delegate real responsibility to the republics. He cannot afford a lengthy stand-off, if the fissiparous tendencies in the Union are to be contained.

Mr Yeltsin's "500 programme" is also maximalist. The plan (which Mr Yeltsin insists is valid for all republics) would make a reality of the Russian Federation's declaration of economic sovereignty. The Russian parliament would set the annual budget, control credit and money supply, regulate prices within a programme of gradual liberalisation and legislate for private ownership of farms, houses and state enterprises.

If the central government is to retain a role, Mr Gorbachev needs to make these ideas his own. Then he could exploit decentralisation of economic policy as a tool against the central bureaucracy which he has repeatedly accused of obstructing reforms, and as the cement of a "union treaty". Mr Ryzhkov's departure could be used to make a fresh start — particularly were a new government to include non-communists. There is no sign that Mr Gorbachev is ready for that yet, but he has seldom shut his ears when opportunity knocks. Mr Yeltsin is leading a peaceful revolution. The only question is, can the Kremlin establish a claim to partnership?

LAMB WARS

Angry French farmers, intent on inflicting the consequences of their own inefficiency on British producers and French consumers — indeed on anyone but themselves — have resorted once more to vandalism and arson. Not willing to compete fairly in the market, their aim is to stop British lamb ever reaching that market place by various criminal acts, of which the most shameful has been the burning of five British sheep, the most dangerous an open riot. The French authorities, as usual in these affairs, do just enough to uphold the law — not always too enthusiastically — while giving the farmers enough room to make their political point.

In economic terms, the French tend to be fair-weather farmers, happy when the market is stable and there is enough business — or enough subsidy — to go round, but among the first to suffer the effect of fluctuations. British and Irish sheep farmers, for instance, have swiftly responded to a demand for top-quality lamb in France which French producers cannot meet. English orchard owners once had the same trouble with French apples.

Lamb prices have fallen across Europe by some ten per cent, forced down in part by a combination of drought in France and over-production elsewhere. The CAP price stabilising mechanisms — agreed in the farm policy reform package of February 1988 — have failed to cure the vice of over-production. Food mountains, supposed then to have been eliminated, are returning. EC beef stocks have now reached 320,000 tonnes and there is a "butter molehill" growing daily.

What is lost on the French farmers is that, while their survival has long depended on the EC common agricultural policy, the logical consequence of that policy is free movement in food, at least within the bounds of the EC cartel. The policy has for them been a gravy train, funded by European taxpayers, from which they help themselves when it suits them.

For Britain, participation in the CAP is expensive, but the cost is deemed to be worth it because of the access it gives to a wider market, of which France is part. To deny Welsh sheep

farmers the right to sell their meat in France is to make a mockery of the CAP and to invite a return to national protectionism.

To that extent there is sense in the argument being used by some of the Welsh victims of the French tactics — that if the French are allowed to engage in protectionism (by force if not by law), then why should the Welsh have to compete on equal terms with other EC meat producers, for instance the Irish beef farmer with a surplus on his hands because of the Gulf conflict? French protectionism-by-violence, if not stamped on, threatens to undermine the CAP house of cards.

There is a dose of chauvinism about the attitudes of French farmers generally, an attempt to manipulate French public opinion to believe that Welsh lamb on the dinner table is unpatriotic, as it puts French sheep farmers out of business. On the other hand, plundering the CAP for every centime it is worth, while defying the CAP's basic principles, is presumably conduct worthy of *la gloire*. If Welsh farmers go out of business, or if the British feel they have been ripped off by French exploitation of the CAP, then too bad.

The French farmers want greater subsidies from the funds of the CAP by means of artificial price maintenance, which means in this case taking Welsh lamb off the market and putting it into cold store. The EC should be moving in the opposite direction, away from the policies of subsidy towards a free market in agriculture, along the lines agreed at the Houston economic summit in July. While insisting that the French authorities guarantee safe passage for Welsh sheepmeat, Britain should be pressing in the EC for the winding down of the whole farming subsidy regime.

The French would then have to face a choice: to subject their farmers to the painful slimming now being experienced by British farmers or to see the repatriation of French farm policy to Paris, with France's withdrawal from the CAP and so its collapse. This would recognise that farming always was an unnatural industry for a nation to surrender to supranational authority.

FROM THE TOTNES ASHES

The disastrous fire which yesterday destroyed a group of ancient buildings in the centre of Totnes in Devon will have dismayed lovers of English townscape. Totnes was rightly described by Pevsner as "one of the most rewarding small towns in England". The sequence of Fore Street and the High Street, with their Tudor and Jacobean buildings and arcades and the Eastgate house straddling the road, is vernacular architecture at its most enjoyable. The burning of so beautiful a street is a blow to architectural history as grievous as were the recent fires at Hampton Court, York Minster and Uppark.

Other European countries have no qualms about rebuilding old towns destroyed by fire or war. Warsaw, Dusseldorf and Tours all testify to the restorers' art. They are facsimiles of the work of their original creators. In Britain, an intense debate still surrounds such restoration.

Many said that Georgian Uppark should have been left unrepaired, a gaunt ruin and monument to the elemental force of fire. What the fates destroy should be left to archaeology. We do not rebuild Stonehenge or Ludlow Castle, so why rebuild their 17th or 18th century successors? Some within the Royal Institute of British Architects even suggested that Hampton Court should be left gaping and blackened, as "true to history". As a Turkish explosion wrecked the Parthenon — who would dare restore that? — so Wren's masterpiece at Hampton should have been left alone with its memories.

Such argument shows how silly the purists can be when unconstrained by common sense. Almost all the great "medieval" cathedrals of

Europe have been partly rebuilt with 19th or 20th century materials — and would be in ruins had they not been. Little of the fabric of most "Tudor" buildings actually dates from before the 19th century. We repair and restore as time goes by. Even if we alter, this does not impede our enjoyment of the art of the past enshrined in buildings. The key to architectural conservation lies in appearance, in design, in the sense of proportion and scale deriving from earlier ages when the requirements of buildings and towns were different.

Today's craftsmen possess the skills to recreate the work of their predecessors. At Hampton Court, at York Minster and now at Uppark, skills equal to those of the original workmen are on show. The restoration of such art may not rank as a triumph of the imagination: there are opportunities for such triumphs elsewhere. But restoration is a triumph of skilled and sensitive workmanship: paying for it testifies to public respect for the past as enshrined in art.

Some will say that Totnes is now ripe for 20th-century redevelopment, that the fire has cleared the way for a new town centre, as Wren suggested the old City of London be replanned after the Great Fire of London. This is nonsense. The heart of Totnes — preferably cleared of modern traffic — is a survival of national importance. The collapsed Eastgate should be rebuilt, its famous clock and cupola should be restored and the 16th and 17th-century facades about it recreated to their former glory. Modern town centres are two a penny. Totnes is unique. It must rise again from its ashes.

Resolution 51 as grounds for multi-national force

From Dr David Owen, MP for Plymouth Devonport (Social Democrat)

Sir, Your editorial of September 4, "No soft options" over the invasion of Kuwait, is correct in all its particulars. Under article 51 of the UN Charter the legitimate government of Kuwait or the Saudi Arabian government would be fully within their rights in their self-defence to ask the US, Egypt, the UK, Syria and the other nations in the multi-national deterrent force to help to remove Iraqi forces from Kuwait if they judged the Security Council measures were not proving sufficient to ensure their security.

We in Britain relied on article 51 to justify re-taking the Falkland Islands by force. We did so when we rightly, as it has since turned out, judged that General Galtieri was using the UN and the diplomatic peace process to stall an Argentinean withdrawal which he had no intention of carrying out.

If the USSR and China were prepared to lift their right to veto the multi-national force being given the authorisation of the UN to eject the Iraqis from Kuwait, few would be more delighted than President Bush. But it is expecting a lot for President Gorbachev to go this far at such an early stage in the post-Cold War climate of co-operation in the Security Council.

Diplomacy, sanctions, and the deterrent force with its capacity to act offensively will, in combination, hopefully pressurise Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait; also to accept international inspection of all Iraqi nuclear installations and potential gas-manufacturing capacity as well as a negotiated reduction in the levels of its armed forces. But just as we could not keep our Task Force indefinitely at sea off the Falklands, so the multi-national force in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf will not be able to stay indefinitely on full alert.

Sanctions alone, without the deterrent force on the ground in Saudi Arabia, will never succeed. Politicians who pretend otherwise are either naïve or are simply hedging their bets, preparing to will the end but to deny the means. There is always a temptation in Opposition to cover yourself and your party against an eventual use of force leading to casualties, a prolonged battle, or even defeat. It is a temptation to avoid.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID OWEN,
House of Commons.

From Mr Robert Spooner
Sir, In deciding policy to deal with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, it is truly astonishing to find Paddy Ashdown stating that "if further action is required, it is up to the Security Council to decide this, not an individual member or members" (report, September 4).

I recall the strong and justified words of Mr Ashdown following the Peking massacre in June, 1989, and his trenchant views on the future of Hong Kong. Is Mr Ashdown content that the Chinese government should have a veto over any action to defend vital Western interests in the Gulf?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT SPOONER,
49 Albemarle Street, W1.

Alternative energy

From Mr David Kuit

Sir, Your leading article, "Going with the wind" (August 24), was timely and drew attention to a major gap in the Government's energy policies. Can anyone still doubt that it is time to establish a separate department for the promotion of alternative energy? Is the failure up to now to do so an indication of the stranglehold exercised by the providers of conventional fuels?

Yours faithfully,
D. KUIT,
Rosebery House,
Tottenham Lane, N8,
August 24.

From Mr Peter Edwards

Sir, Your leader of August 24 missed the main reason why only two commercial windfarmers (of which we are one) are likely to proceed.

We have experienced a very frustrating year, bouncing our planning application around the district council, who cannot be expected to have any technical knowledge or experience of windfarming.

Unless national guidelines are laid down and such applications are considered by county councils or even regional planning bodies, similar planning delay will result for every windfarm application.

Yours faithfully,
PETER EDWARDS (Director),
Windeflect Ltd.,
Delabole, Cornwall,
August 27.

Impartial broadcasts

From Lord Orr-Ewing and Lord Wyatt of Weyford

Sir, Referring to proposals to clarify the impartiality requirements in the Broadcasting Bill for which we and others have been campaigning, your media correspondent reports (August 27) that programme-makers will interrogate Home Office officials about which existing programmes would be censored under an amendment to extend the code to programmes expressing a personal view.

It is generally accepted that the privileged duopoly position of the national broadcasting media confers upon them the obligation to treat politically controversial subjects fairly; hence the concept of *due impartiality* which has long

been established in legislation. Yet senior broadcasters continue to raise bogus scares that the proposed changes would require programmes in defence of the genocidal Pol Pot, when in reality *due impartiality* has always meant — and will continue to mean — the fair representation of the main opposing viewpoints on matters of contention within the democratic political spectrum.

No programme would have to be censored. But, where programme-makers have chosen to suppress some of the main opposing arguments in a broadcast, then another programme putting the other side of the case will have to be pre-planned and presented with comparable prominence. This is already required by the IBA's own television programme guidelines, formulated in 1985 but constantly ignored.

As for "personal view" programmes, the Home Office has confirmed that these have always been subject to the same impartiality requirements of fairness over a series of programmes as are any other broadcasts on contentious issues.

Yours faithfully,
IAN ORR-EWING,
WYATT OF WEYFORD,
House of Lords,
August 30.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

From Mr Ivan Lawrence, QC, MP for Burton (Conservative)

Sir, Since article 51 of the UN Charter gives any member state subjected to armed attack an inherent right (i.e. one which does not require specific resolution) of self-defence, until such time as the Security Council has done what is necessary to maintain international peace and security (such as an effective economic embargo), it is difficult to see why the UK would be obliged in law to go to seek specific UN approval before it became a party to military action to remove Saddam Hussein from Kuwait.

Of course, the Emir would first need to invite us to take such action (which he has not yet done), and the embargo would have to be failing to secure Iraq's necessary compliance with Resolution 661.

But to argue, with Paddy Ashdown and others, that the Security Council, by passing Resolution 665, which gives teeth to the earlier condemnation of the act of aggression, was by implication revoking an inherent right, must be nonsense. That would be to leave any small state open to naked aggression just so long as someone has referred the matter to the United Nations.

It may be that an inherent right can be specifically revoked. Certainly that has not happened here. In fact that right was specifically affirmed by the very resolution that some are arguing has revoked it!

Yours etc.,
IVAN LAWRENCE,
House of Commons,
September 4.

From Mr E. D. Leigh-Pemberton
Sir, The propaganda appearances of President Saddam Hussein have been, correctly, condemned by most and, in particular, by President Bush and the Prime Minister.

Last night, as a result, one watched the antics of Mr Jesse Jackson, on television, feeling a sense of deep horror. When this was followed by the sight of Mr William Waldegrave behaving in a similarly appalling way this feeling turned to one of shame and regret that a member of our Government can stoop so low.

If a reception for the freed hostages was necessary (this should have taken place in the airport building or, at least, on the tarmac. One feels the poor children involved, confused enough already, would have preferred to be with their mothers rather than pawns in a propaganda battle in which this country should have no part.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD LEIGH-PEMBERTON,
Longcot House,
Faringdon,
Oxfordshire,
September 3.

From Mrs Stephanie Dee
Sir, I should like to praise the extraordinary bravery of Jacqueline Joyce, the British woman who quietly asked Saddam Hussein, face to face, why he was using children as pawns, and so achieved more than any tabloid leader-writer, diplomat or member of the government.

When the crisis is over, we shall see striding away from Buckingham Palace those decorated for directing fire-power and manpower. It would be pleasant to think that some recognition will also be given to a female civilian who showed such amazing courage, not from a position of strength, but one of terrifying vulnerability, even helplessness.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHANIE DEE,
12 Lower Meddon Street,
Bideford, Devon,
August 30.

From Mr Reggie Boyle
Sir, Saddam Hussein, despite protestations to the contrary, is of course demanding monetary ransom for his Western hostages. He is demanding to be allowed to keep Kuwait, and the fact that he has taken it already does not in any way change the old-fashioned nature of the kidnapping.

Yours sincerely,
REGGIE BOYLE,
3-1-23 Moto Azabu,
Minato-Ku,
Tokyo 106, Japan,
September 3.

From Mrs Philippa Luard
Sir, Alan Franks (Saturday Review, August 25) has written an excellent article on walking the South Downs Way. It does not, however, make it clear that this path is the only long-distance path designated as a bridleway throughout its entire length. There is a short length of alternative footpath at the Eastbourne end.

The Countryside Commission does not use the word "foot" in its designation of any path. A considerable mileage of all paths is of bridleway or higher status, and is thus enjoyed by walkers, cyclists and some 3.3 million regular riders.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIPPA LUARD (Chairman,
Access and rights of way policy
committee, British Horse Society),
Maidenford, Goodleigh,
Barnstaple, Devon,
August 25.

Word perfect

From Mr E. J. Gasson

Sir, Philip Howard, in his criticism of journalistic superlatives ("Superlativism at its worst", August 24) has rather gone over the top, and should look to his comprehension of our language.

Take, for example, "best-selling car of all time". Possible alternatives: "best-selling car" (This year? Since its inception? Or what?). Or "best-selling car of all" (ditto).

And again: "Modern-day history". The alternative, "modern history" has, at least to me, quite a

different meaning: it terminated at the time our school text books were written, at about the end of Victoria's reign. If I remember rightly, whereas "modern-day history" is presumably still in the making.

If Mr Howard wants to improve journalistic semantics, let him get rid of the word "arguably": there's a linguistic passenger, if ever there was one.

Yours sincerely,
E. J. GASSON,
Linhay,
Long Sutton,
Langport, Somerset.

From Mr George Gardiner, MP for Reigate (Conservative)

Sir, Your editorial, "No soft options", is most timely. When Parliament meets this week it is essential that ministers make it crystal clear that no option, including military action, can be ruled out to secure our objectives in the Gulf.

To concede Mr Ashdown's demand (reinforced by Mr Benn) that we "follow sanctions, and sanctions alone", would immeasurably strengthen Saddam Hussein. Effectively enforced, by military means, sanctions will cause hardship to the populace of Iraq, but it is doubtful whether they are likely to induce Saddam Hussein to relinquish Kuwait or lead to any kind of popular uprising against him in his own country. The probability is that in the end military action will have to be taken to drive his forces from that country.

However, there is an even more important objective for the West than this: to ensure that neither Saddam Hussein nor any possible successor will have the opportunity to deploy nuclear weapons to intimidate other states in the region, perhaps in as little as two years' time. There is no way that Iraq's nuclear potential can be destroyed except by military means.

The hard choice likely to face us soon is between military action now or nuclear blackmail later. One wonders what "soft option" Mr Ashdown or Mr Benn would recommend to us then, if present opportunities are missed.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE GARDINER,
House of Commons.

From Mr Edwin Bailey
Sir, One of the main foundation stones of any nation is their language, which identifies them and through which they declare their contributions to civilisation. Hence the concern by many more people in Wales than those who go around burning holiday cottages that the Welsh language should flourish.

The great fault of the Sons of Glendower is their impatience. They want the independence of Wales within the United Kingdom, as marked by a general use of the Welsh language, to be achieved overnight. And that can't be done. The Sons would be better employed in making sure that we have a good Welsh-English dictionary which will offer guidance as the language is adapted to present-day needs.

Yours sincerely,
EDWIN BAILEY,
8 Maes Bach,
Langgellon, Clwyd,
August 30.

Ivory towers

From Mr John Nichols

Sir, May I, from a base of pure prejudice, 40 years' experience as a chartered accountant in industry, and as a governor of an excellent primary school, tell Sir Claus Moser (reporter and leader, August 21, letters, August 25 and 28) that the fault of the British educational system is that it is based entirely on academic subjects, from primary through to tertiary education.

Our education system is incestuous, run by academics teaching academic subjects with no knowledge of either the history or the current operation of technological wealth-creating industries.

In seven weeks I shall be a freshman at the University of East Anglia, reading economic and social history in the hope of learning the reasons for Britain's poor industrial performance over the last century. In the meantime I shall continue to talk to primary school children in Suffolk about industrial processes.

Yours truly,
JOHN NICHOLS,
Olsen Financial Consultants,
Mill House, Holton St Peter,
Halesworth, Suffolk,
August 21.

Play's premiere

From Mr A. D. Wilson

Sir, May I add to Michael Walling's research into previous productions of *Sir Thomas More* (Diary, August 27)? The then headmaster of The King's School in Canterbury, Canon F. J. Shirley, produced both the first acting edition... attributed in part to William Shakespeare... and also the play itself in 1938.

Your critic of November 5, 1938, described the play as "remarkably exciting" the performance was good enough to leave the mind free to speculate on Shakespeare's own presence". He also mentioned a production in 1922, without further particulars.

Yours faithfully,
A. D. WILSON,
Ashbrook, Aston Tirrold,
Didcot, Oxfordshire.

Born again, and again

From Mr R. H. E. Russell

Sir, As an inveterate peruser of your Anniversary columns, I am prompted to enquire whether it is more important to be born than to die. For the second time in recent years the essayist Leigh Hunt has failed to die on August 28 in your Anniversary, whereas he has consistently been born on October 19 every year.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD H. E. RUSSELL,
Home Farm House,
Woolhampton Park,
Reading, Berkshire,
August 29.



COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 4: The Princess of Wales visited the offices of Gulf Helpline, Kingsway.

Mr Patrick Johnson and Mr Richard Arbuter were in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
September 4: The Duke of Kent today visited Farnborough International 90 at the Royal Air Force Establishment, Farnborough, Hampshire, and

was met on arrival by Oroup Captain John Slessor (Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire).

Captain the Hon Christopher Knollys was in attendance.

The Duke and Duchess of Kent this evening attended a recital by Alfred Brendel in aid of Music in Country Churches at the Middle Temple Hall, London EC4.

Mrs Julian Tomkins and Commander Roger Walker, RN, were in attendance.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.C.K. Catinella
and Miss V.J. Knox
The engagement is announced between Peter, only son of Mrs Susan Catinella, of Hawthorn, Wiltshire, and Mr Claudio Catinella, of Bath, Avon, and Virginia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stephen Knox, of East Horsley, Surrey.

Sub-Lieutenant P.H. Diver, RN
and Miss C.S.D. Burridge
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Commander and Mrs H.A. Diver, of Burnstead, Fife, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.V. Burridge, of Bath.

Mr S.T. Drew
and Miss S.R.S. Scott
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Drew, of Warrash, Hampshire, and Suzanne, daughter of Dr and Mrs Ralph Scott, of Bury St Edmunds.

Mr R.S.H. Everett
and Miss A.C. Fienes Cox
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr Roger Everett, of Upton Lovell, Wiltshire, and Mrs Mark Everett, of King's Somborne, Hampshire, and Suzanne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Fienes Cox, of Church Oakley, Hampshire.

The Hon E.W. Fremantle
and Miss S.E. Chillingworth
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Lord and Lady Collesco, of Battersea, London, SW11, and Sara, only daughter of Lieutenant Commander and Mrs Harry Chillingworth, of Bembridge, Isle of Wight.

Mr A.J. Grant
and Miss J.J. Dawes
The engagement is announced between Andrew John, son of Mr and Mrs Ian Grant, of Balmaha, Cottenham, Surrey, and Jessica Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Maurice Dawes, of Downview, Keymer, West Sussex.

Birthdays today

Lord Alexander of Weedon, OC, 54; Mr Malcolm Allison, football manager, 63; Miss Meg Bercowski, general secretary, CND, 53; Mr Dick Clement, scriptwriter, 55; Lord Delfont, 81; Mr R.J. Shaw, managing director, Thames Television, 47; Mr David Graham, chief constable, Cheshire, 57; Dame Elizabeth Hedley-Miller, civil servant, 67; Sir Francis Loyd, former colonial officer, 74; Mr Justice Mummery, 52; Mr Bob Newhart, comedian, 61; Mr William Nourse, author and investment consultant, 87; Canon Peter Pilkington, High Master, St Paul's School, 57; Miss Jean Rankine, deputy director, British Museum, 49; Mr G.W. Tremlett, author, 51; Sir Denis Wilkinson, former vice-chancellor, Sussex University, 68; Mr Frank Yerby, novelist, 74.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal will attend the Scottish Homes International Conference, Cowbridge, Avonmouth, at 9.25; as President of the Boat Yachting Association, will attend a council meeting at the Royal Thames Yacht Club at 4.15.

The Duke of Gloucester will visit Carlisle Cathedral Treasury and the Old Town Hall at 10.30; also high duty extensions, Wokingham at noon to mark the 50th anniversary of the company; and the Haig Enterprise Park, Whitehaven, at 2.15.

The Duke of Kent will attend a presidential deputation of the Licensed Victuallers National Homes at the Brewers' Society, Portman Square, at 11.00; and visit the Metropolitan Police Mounted Police Division's training establishment at East Molesey at 2.45.

The Duchess of Kent will attend the film premiere of *Memphis Belle* at the Empire, Leicester Square, at 8.00 in aid of the Leonard Cheshire Memorial Fund for Disaster Relief.

Coachmakers' and Coach Harness Makers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Coachmakers' and Coach Harness Makers' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr Gerald Boxall; Senior Warden, Mr D.J. Burrell; Renter Warden, Mr A.J.D. Ferguson; Junior Warden, Mr P.C.K. O'Ferrall.

Reception

HM Government
Mr Michael Forsyth, Minister for Health at the Scottish Office, was host last night at a reception given by Her Majesty's Government in Edinburgh Castle to mark the 4th International Aphasia Rehabilitation Congress.

Mr A.W. McConaughie
and Miss S.G. Glyn-Jones
The engagement is announced between Adrian, elder son of Mr and Mrs William McConaughie, of Doagh, Co Antrim, and Sarah, elder daughter of the Revd and Mrs Alan Glyn-Jones, of Twickenham, Middlesex.

Mr J. Paley
and Miss M.F. Mahery
The engagement is announced between Jon, son of Mr and Mrs D. Paley, of Cottingham, and Freya, daughter of Dr and Mrs D.J. Mahery, of Steeton, Keighley.

Mr J.B.G. Stephenson
and Miss L.H. Butman
The engagement is announced between Jeffrey Benjamin Grainger, son of Mrs Shirley Ann Stephenson, of Kilmacolm, Glasgow, and of the late Mr Gerald Stephenson, and Lois Helen, daughter of Canon and Mrs Michael T.A. Butman, of Jerusalem.

Marriages

Mr C. Dymoke
and Miss K. Topham
The marriage took place on Saturday, August 25, at St Peter's Church, Curdridge, Hampshire, between Dr Roland Dymoke, youngest son of Mr Charles Dymoke, of Scarsby, Lincolnshire, and Miss Kathryn Topham, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Rex Topham, of Oxford. The Rev Geoffrey Simpson officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Alexandra Bernstein, Emily Mary Henry, and Edward Dymoke. Mr Giles Williams was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride.

Dr R. Morley
and Miss J. Bull
The marriage took place on Saturday, August 25, at St Peter's Church, Curdridge, Hampshire, between Dr Roland Morley and Miss Jocelyn Bull.

The bride was given in marriage by her father, Dr Graham Philpott was best man. The reception was held at home and the honeymoon will be spent in the Caribbean.

Dr Brian Holden Reid writes:
MARCUS Cunliffe was a rare thing in British, and even more in American academic life — a polymath. Consequently, he can be viewed through numerous prisms. Doubtless others would have a perspective of their own, but I would like to take the opportunity of emphasising a number of aspects which struck me as important in assessing his immense significance as a scholar.

The first is his northern background. He was born in Rochdale, enjoyed a York-

shire childhood at Dingle near Huddersfield, and moved to Huddersfield upon Tyne where he was educated at the Royal Grammar School. After war was declared he was evacuated to Penrith. "My notion of Britain", he once observed, "in childhood and adolescence, was decidedly northern". He loved the bleak, treeless moors of the north, the bare of the thatched cottages, churches and roses of "merrie England". I think it is this, which accounts for his affinity with New England and its writers.

The second aspect was the second world war. Like many of his generation, Cunliffe increasingly felt that his experience of frontline action in North West Europe in 1944-5 was the formative experience of his life. It led not only to a lifelong interest in all things military, but to the completion of two regimental histories, of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment (for which task he was chosen by Montgomery) and the Royal Irish Fusiliers. In the 1970s, this latent interest was subsumed by many others, but it was never far from the surface. That his thoughts were begin-

ning to dwell on turning his military experience into fiction is a testimony to the importance that he attached to it retrospectively. Cunliffe began post-graduate research in military history in 1946 at Oxford. But even his military interests pulled him towards America. "We had driven in American vehicles and fired American guns. I had seen Flying Fortresses spiral into formation at dawn over East Anglia." On first visiting Yale in 1947, Cunliffe was taken with the United States, it was "in important respects better than

Europe; exceptional and exceptionally good". But the vast range of his American interests tends to conceal the common themes that characterise his work. The most important is that Cunliffe attempted to explain through the medium of American literature and thought, hero worship, and political and military institutions, the "separateness" of American national character. In his final and unfinished book, *The Separate Republic*, Cunliffe was attempting to draw all these disparate themes on which he had

lavished a lifetime's study into one synthesis. In his treatment of American contrasts (especially but not exclusively with Europe) and national character scholars of American studies will find the true significance of Cunliffe's writing. This will transcend the worth of any individual contribution he made to specific aspects of United States history and culture. He will take his place along with Lord Bryce and Sir Denis Brogan as a very British (and not transatlantic) observer of America.

OBITUARIES

LADY HOME OF THE HIRSEL

Lady Home of the Hirsell, wife of Lord Home of the Hirsell, who as Sir Alec Douglas-Home was formerly Conservative prime minister, died aged 80 on September 3, following a stroke. She was born on November 6, 1909.

ELIZABETH Alington married Lord Douglas, as he then was, in 1936. For the next fifty years, she was through her husband to be involved in major national and international issues from his first political assignment as parliamentary secretary to Neville Chamberlain through to his offices as foreign secretary and prime minister. This marriage of two complementary personalities made the achievements by both partners inextricable. She always shared in her husband's acknowledged statesmanship.

She was the second daughter of the Hon Hester Lytton and the Very Rev Cyril Alington, who was successively headmaster of Shawbury and Eton before becoming Dean of Durham. Her youth was lived out mainly at Eton and she later became the first woman fellow of the College.

Lord Home of the Hirsell was to write in his autobiography, *The Way The Wind Blows*: "The happiest day of my life was when I married Elizabeth and found the perfect partner, a partnership which was spent almost entirely in office." This meant that the Homes were constantly involved in major political events, starting with Chamberlain's meeting with Hitler in 1938 when Alec Douglas-Home (then Lord Douglas) was his parliamentary private secretary. For a period, while he was MP for Lanark, tuberculosis of the spine dangerously disabled him. During this time, when for long stretches he was confined to his bed, his wife gradually nursed him back to health. In the early 1950s he became minister of state at the Scottish Office and then commonwealth secretary. He was to be foreign secretary, prime minister and subsequently foreign secretary again.

Alec Home described political service as "participation at the centre of things" and this for him included Suez,



Britain's hydrogen bomb, the "Winds of Change", Rhodesian UDI, Britain's entry into the EEC, Cuba and the Moscow test ban treaty. Elizabeth usually shared her husband's travels which provided opportunities for making contacts throughout the world at all levels including the highest. Kennedy in the USA, Chou En-Lai in China, Khrushchev and Gromyko in Russia, Sadat in Egypt, Menzies in Australia, Pearson in Canada.

She sustained life-long friendships with a world network through personal letters, frequently written at night using a torch-light pen so as not to disturb her sleeping husband. The content was always encouraging and discerning, written in delicate Chinese flower painting script, with an original twist to every thought and always with inimitable wit. There was over condescension because her

friendship meant sharing regardless of age, race or creed. Children from every embassy accredited to the UK enjoyed the tea parties given at Lancaster House which provided the same crackers, conjuror, balloons and sausages they would have found at a Scottish country gathering. The only added visual advantage to the hostess, who always photographed these occasions, was a majority of thin black legs to white socks.

Those who worked with Elizabeth Home soon became aware of the selflessness which enabled her to double the use of daily hours. She combined raising a family of one son and three daughters with driving her husband, responding to what he needed her help, and being ready to receive heads of state at official functions where she always appeared imperturbable.

The Home household hos-

pitality whether at Number 10, Lancaster House or in Scotland at Douglas and the Hirsell has been described as "the perfection of sufficiency". In the Home apocrypha of humour there is an attribution to the visit of an important dignitary reputed to be a cannibal. Equanimity only wavered because of the added requirement to respond as well to the fact that the visitor was diabetic.

Elizabeth Home faced all eventualities with the same humility. Its source was the spiritual strength she found in true Christianity. At a time of increasing recognition for the contribution made to public service by those partners who through marriage consolidate mutual excellence, the achievements of Elizabeth Home identify an outstanding example of how a wife can share her husband's statesmanship.

MARCUS CUNLIFFE

School announcements

Benenden School
Term starts today at Benenden School. The Founders' Memorial Recital will be held on October 14. The School Carol Service will take place on December 9.

Channing School
Autumn Term begins today, Wednesday, September 5. School officers are Tanya Keeble, Rachel Giles and Lisa Davis. The Channing Association AGM, on Thursday, October 4, will be addressed by the Rt Hon J. McGregory, MP, OBE, Secretary of State for Education and Science. All Old Girls are invited to attend this meeting, and also the Carol Service on Thursday, December 13.

Cheltenham Ladies' College
The term opens today at The Cheltenham Ladies' College. The Senior Prefect is Rachel Monk and the Second Head of House is Karen Kwong. Half term from Friday (5.00 pm) to October 19, to Sunday, October 28, inclusive.

There will be a concert to celebrate the refurbishing of the Princess Hall organ on Saturday, December 1, at 7.30 pm, in the Princess Hall. The combined Choral Concert with Cheltenham College and St Edward's Senior School, Mozart's *Requiem*, will take place on Sunday, November 18, in the Cheltenham College Chapel at 7.30 pm. The Christmas Concert for Parents and Visitors will be held on Friday, December 14, in the Princess Hall at 7.30 pm.

Edgelynn College, Bideford
Autumn Term begins today and ends on December 12. The Head Girl is Alice Ritchie and her Deputy is Tabitha Aldrich-Smith and Claire Morgan. Prize Day will be on October 26, when Miss Emma Nicholson, MP, will be the guest of honour. The Christmas Concert will be on December 10, and the Carol Service on December 12.

Eton College
Eton College opens today for the Michaelmas Half. The total in the school is 1,279. New boys, J.P. Fitzherbert-

Brookholes, KS, is captain of school and H.J. MacMillan, OS, captain of the Opoids.

The Eton Action Fair will be held on Saturday, September 15. Charter Day on October 11 will be commemorated by song recital at noon and a concert at 8.30 pm, but the Old Etonian 1440-1990 revue has been postponed. There will be a school play festival from October 14 to 18 and Long Leave will be from October 19 to 28.

The Right Rev Simon Phipps will officiate at services of confirmation in College Chapel on November 18 and 18. St Andrew's Day will be celebrated on Saturday, November 24, and the Carol Service will be on December 2. School closes on December 11.

Greensacre School
The Autumn Term at Greensacre School, Banstead, begins today with 425 girls. Mrs P.M. Wood succeeds Miss M.E. Haggerty as Headmistress. Mary Harris is Head of School with Koturu Chimuka as Deputy. Captains of Lacrosse and Netball are Sophie Frost and Anna Robinson. Holly Bigwood is vice-captain. Elizabeth McPhee, Louise Camby and Caroline Arnett form the School Orchestra Committee and Nadine Tansh leads the School choir. The Christmas dramatic production and the Junior and Senior Carol services will be held during the last week of term, which ends on December 18.

Harrogate Ladies' College
Harrogate Ladies' College re-opens today for the Autumn Term with 400 girls, 100 in the Sixth Form. Nadia Al-Aidarsou is Headmistress. Mary Morgan is Head of School with Koturu Chimuka as Deputy. Captains of Lacrosse and Netball are Sophie Frost and Anna Robinson. Holly Bigwood is vice-captain. Elizabeth McPhee, Louise Camby and Caroline Arnett form the School Orchestra Committee and Nadine Tansh leads the School choir. The Christmas dramatic production and the Junior and Senior Carol services will be held during the last week of term, which ends on December 18.

Monmouth School
Michaelmas Term at Monmouth School begins on September 5 and ends with the Carol Service on December 13. Mr M.J. Morrison joins the staff as Head of English and Mr A.N. Cochran becomes Housemaster of Hereford House. J.R. Lewis will be Head of School and Captain of Rugby Football.

The school year, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* will be presented on November 9 and 10. The Duncan Crane Memorial Lecture will be given by Dr Paul Langford on September 28. There will be an Open Day for prospective parents on Saturday, October 13.

North London Collegiate School
North London Collegiate School starts the school year today. There are 895 pupils, including 207 in the sixth form. The Jubilee Appeal is reaching its target and work on the second stage of the Laboratories redevelopment has been completed.

Old North Londoners and their families will be welcome on Saturday, September 15, for tea and to view the new developments. A "Forties Lunch" for those at school 1940-1950 will be held on Saturday, October 6. Tickets available from school, telephone: 081 952 0912.

Queen's College, London
Term begins on Wednesday, September 5. The Senior Students are Suzanne Kaye and Rachael Young. The Senior Dramatic Society production of *The Tempest* is on Tuesday, November 13, and Wednesday, November 14. The Dent Lecture on Wednesday, December 12, will be given by Dr Frances Suzzman. The College Concert is on Thursday, December 13, and the Carol Service will take place on Tuesday, December 18, at All Souls, Langham Place.

Royal Grammar School, Guildford
Michaelmas Term begins today at the Royal Grammar School and ends on December 19. The School Captain is Derek Lowe;

James Wydenbach is Captain of Rugby. Speech Day is on September 28; Mr Christopher Everett will be the guest of honour and Canon Michael Bourdeaux will preach at the Commemoration Service. The Junior Prizegiving will be on October 12, the Guildford Sinfonia Concert on December 4, and the past v present rugby match at Bradstone Brook on December 15.

St Catherine's School, Bramley
The Autumn Term begins on Thursday, September 6. Joanna Peggall is Head Girl and Joanne Cast, Senior Daygirl. A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of the late Miss Barbara Platt, Headmistress 1970-82, will be held in the School Chapel on Saturday, November 3. Friends and former pupils who would like to attend are asked to contact the School for details. The OGA Annual Reunion will take place on Saturday, November 24, and the Carol Service in Guildford Cathedral on Tuesday, December 11, at 7.30 pm. The term ends on Friday, December 14.

St Paul's Cathedral Choir School
Autumn Term begins today. The Head Boy is Stefan Inyovitch. On Sunday, September 9, Angus Barnston, Alexander Budd, Rupert Candy, Benjamin Collingwood, Lawrence Hume, Jason Matharu, Jonathan Seygall and Christopher Thornton will be admitted to the choir. Prizegiving is on September 29, when Miss Patricia Routledge will present the prizes. The Speaker of the House of Commons visits the school on October 12, and the Lord Mayor of London on October 16. Voice Trials will be held on Saturday, November 17, and the Carol Service Sunday, December 2, the annual performance of the *Messiah*, Tuesday, December 11, and term ends on Tuesday, December 25.

Warrimoor School
The Michaelmas Term begins today with 502 pupils in the school, and will end with the Carol Service on December 12. Mr T.D. Holgate succeeds Mr D.M. Green as Master. Roy Manders is Head Boy and Lucy

THE REV KENNETH OLIVER

The Rev K. C. (Ken) Oliver, CBE, TD, army chaplain, died on August 30 aged 82. He was born on June 13, 1908.

KEN Oliver was by his preaching, example and personality a profound influence on the many who knew him in over 50 years of ministry. As an army chaplain he served in the front line with the Honourable Artillery Company during the most harrowing battles of the Western Desert from El Agheila to Knightsbridge. The Bishop of the Forces, Cuthbert Bardsley, wrote of him: "He was not merely concerned with men's souls but was ready to listen to their problems, to share their joys and sorrows and introduce them to Christ, not just by words, but by the quality of his life. He had that rare and precious ability to suffer with and alongside the wounded, the dying and the bereaved."

At the war's end he became a regular and was for a time senior chaplain to 7th Armoured Division in Celle, Lower Saxony. He subsequently served in the Middle East, with the Household Division, in the Far East and in Southern Command UK, retiring from the army in 1960. He next became chaplain to Milton Abbey school but after two years changed direction to run his own boys' academic crammers. As this phase of his life, which lasted for 12 years, drew to a close the parishioners of the local parish, Climping, sought him out to be their priest. This enabled him to continue as assistant chaplain to Ford Open Prison and to teach at Westbourne House preparatory school. After a further 10 years, he retired to become chaplain to the Queen Alexandra's Home for Disabled Servicemen. Support for Christ's Hospital was fundamental to his life.

Ken Oliver was a courtly man with the knack of putting young and old, rich and poor at their ease. Naturally gregarious, he was immensely popular at all types of social gathering with a great love of classical music and enjoyment of bridge. He conducted services with warmth and simplicity, preaching an utterly understandable and relevant sermon in ten minutes. He is survived by his second wife, Anne, by a son of his first marriage, and by two stepdaughters.

There was no formal instruction as to duties. He set his own parameters which far exceeded the norm for regimental officers, sports and entertainment organiser including dance band leader and crooner, mess secretary and, during the desperate desert battles, supplier of

NAAFI comforts. During one particularly hectic retreat he served his turn on night guard over a column of army vehicles drawn up defensively in the desert. He was wounded and narrowly escaped capture on several occasions. In this he fared better than his bible which was captured with the rest of his gear and an army truck from which Oliver had not very many moments before climbed down to go and talk to some soldiers a hundred yards away. He felt the loss keenly. The bible had been the companion of many years. But three years later it was restored to him in totally unexpected circumstances by a German prisoner of war in a camp to which he was ministering. Oliver was astonished and delighted when the Wehrmacht man walked up to him holding the book and asking him whether it was his property.

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MEDIA

The September song and dance

Britain's television operations are readying themselves for their autumn offensives. Essentially the prospect is one of struggle on two separate fronts, terrestrial and satellite. With satellite penetration, even with cable knock-on, still stuck around 5 per cent, the terrestrial channels can battle on much as they always have, with only the occasional protective glance over the shoulder.

The opening barrage was loosed last weekend, with BBC1 unveiling a "new" Saturday of fresh editions of Noel Edmonds, Russ Abbot, *All Creatures Great and Small* and Alf Garnett, topped off with *Dirty Harry*, the Clint Eastwood film. ITV chose to counter with one of the oldest howlers in the business, Sean Connery as James Bond in *Goldfinger*, and will wheel out Bond again for the next two weeks. Eager executives consulting audience research for signs of ground gained will be told to read too much into the first few days and weeks.

Television's habit of hitting us hard with real or supposed novelty every September is not without its critics. The audience does not settle into its established viewing pattern until the clocks go back, and days shorten. September and October are also awkwardly punctuated by competing ritual from the TUC and the political party conferences, always likely to lower interest, if not to distract attention. This year, too, there is the wild card of the Gulf, tilting viewing in favour of news. Yet the assumption remains that he who first darts to hit the entertainment button wins.

Over the longer haul, it would seem that the two sides are fairly evenly matched. Overall, the safest bet is that summer alarms about a BBC slump will die away, and that deep winter viewing will settle in the 47 per cent to 53 per cent range, with the slight margin going, as it usually does, to ITV and Channel 4 combined over BBC1 and BBC2.

Such an outcome will be a relief to the BBC as it turns its mind to a five-year battle over funding and purpose. It can expect little help from the press, and not much from fellow broadcasters. Here it is paying the price for staying mum while the government dismantled the ITV system, good points as well as bad. This week David Elstein of Thames TV sidled seductively into the Peacock camp, pressing the BBC to draw its funds from optional subscription rather than a general licence. Sir Alan Peacock himself now seems stuck with BBC subscription as an *idiot's idea*, ignoring evidence that shows subscription effective chiefly as an

add-on, a special charge for matter relayed by television but not originated by it — movies, sport, some performance art.

Not surprisingly, Mr Elstein failed to declare two interests. Obliging the BBC to seek funding through subscription would sharply tilt the playing-field, leaving ITV and Channel 4 as the only services sent untrammelled into virtually every home in the land. Further, any success in diverting the BBC down subscription alley lessens the chance of the BBC coming to rely on that third source of funds, advertising. As a competitor for advertising the BBC would be formidable. That point is not lost on the BBC, which is now more pro-advertising than it was when the Peacock committee first went to work. Better that than to founder on the rock of subscription.

The argument about the BBC's future should in any case concentrate first on function, leaving funding until later. Are there a set of purposes that are distinctive, yet of broad appeal, touching all of the audience some of the time? And what range of resource has to be brought to bear to fulfil them? Re-definition need not be narrowing.

Those who look for excellence all the time should be reminded that no cultural operation ever attains that. There will be space aplenty for the routine and workmanlike programmes, for competence as well as creativity. But it would be no bad thing if the BBC now nerved itself once again to begin calling junk by its proper name, and move it to the sidelines. The implicit assumption that all BBC programmes are of "quality", simply because the BBC makes them, does little to advance the cause.

Up in the skies over Britain, matters are more urgent. Sky's deleterious effect on News International's accounts can be remedied only by signing on a second large tranche of paying customers. But Sky has already made a decent dent in the market. BSb has yet to do so, and for them the pre-Christmas push is clearly crucial.

BSb starts the race nearly a million home installations adrift of Sky. If we assume that few will buy both BSb and Sky, then BSb's realistic market is correspondingly reduced. BSb's bankers will have an eye on two indicators: how quickly are installations moving ahead, and is the gap with Sky narrowing or growing wider? In the promotional battle, BSb, being second, will no doubt want to be seen to be trying harder.

BROADCAST

Brian Wenham

Deposits in the memories bank

Edward Shelton on the television classics that have been lost forever

Last month the National Film Archive (NFA) began recording all of the BBC's television output. A little late you might think, after 54 years, and you would be right. But the recording is timely, because television archiving in this country is in trouble. The limited archive that does exist is under threat.

The list of early television programmes the BBC did not record in the Fifties, Sixties and Seventies is a treasure of lost classics. *Juke Box Jury*, *Dr Who*, *Till Death Us Do Part*, *Sunday Night at the London Palladium*, even the studio footage of the programme showing man's first landing on the Moon, have been lost forever. Out of 430 *Dixon of Dock Green* episodes produced between 1955 and the mid-Seventies, only 30 survive. Other losses include the Dennis Potter and David Mercer plays of the Sixties.

Recordings of many of these programmes would now have been valuable, commercially and historically.

Anne Hanford, head of television library services at the BBC, says: "The most significant gaps are in fiction, drama and light entertainment."

The NFA, a division of the British Film Institute, has been campaigning for an archive since 1936, when television began. More than 100,000 tapes of programmes were made, but the 2in format on which they were recorded until the early Eighties is now obsolete. Worse still, playback machines have become difficult to maintain.

"Nobody makes parts for them any more," says Steve Bryant, television acquisitions officer at the NFA, which has two of the machines. "Some of the BBC engineers I have spoken to think they will be able to keep them going for only another five years."

The BBC and commercial broadcasters are deciding which of the two digital standards, D2 and DX, to pick for the future. A choice is expected to be made in the next couple of months. The BBC



Dixon of Dock Green: only 30 episodes are left out of 430. Many other early programmes were not recorded

will invest the necessary millions in a transfer operation, but it is by no means certain that independent broadcasters, currently saving as much money as possible for the franchise auction in 1992, will commit the resources.

"It is not something that has taken us by surprise," Ms Hanford says. "But it is a situation that has to be very carefully planned and thought through. We hope to transfer completely in the next five years."

The present state of the ITV companies is not certain, so they are not going to fall over themselves to invest the money if they can't reap benefits.

Adrian Figgess, traffic and library manager at Granada TV, says: "We're currently deciding what to do. We're aware of the problem, with 1992 coming up, but we will take steps to make sure our archive is protected."

Much recorded material has already proved its continuing commercial worth. Episodes of *Till Death Us Do Part* are currently being shown on BSb (not the classic black and white shows from the Sixties,

which were not kept, but the colour shows from the Seventies) as are *The Goodies*, *Step by Step* and early instalments of *Grange Hill*.

But many programmes cannot be screened again without contacting the artists for permission. Most programmes could only be screened twice before they went "out of time", and further broadcasting involved completely renewing the permissions.

Only one member of the cast, perhaps, a classic actor who might regard a light drama series as a skeleton in his cupboard, has to refuse for the whole project to be abandoned. With this in mind, early broadcasters saw no point in keeping their work.

In the early days most programmes were broadcast live and so could not be recorded. Later, when videotape was used to pre-record programmes the expense was considered prohibitive. Many programmes were simply recorded over once they had been shown.

Unlike new books, all of which are retained in copy-

right libraries, television programmes were generally perceived as disposable, an attitude which only began to change in the mid-Seventies.

Despite this, many programmes may have been saved by being recorded privately by their producers. BBC programmes may have survived because they are sold abroad.

Brian Robinson, of the NFA, says: "Things turn up; there's a lot of it knocking around. A couple of lost episodes of *Dr Who* were recently found in Nigeria."

Mr Bryant is tracking down episodes of the 1967 series, *At Last the 1948 Show*, the forerunner to *Monty Python*, which featured John Cleese and the late Graham Chapman. He knows of only two episodes still extant in this country, but thinks he may have located some more abroad.

The NFA initiative with BBC material will complement the ITV and Channel 4 service already in place. For a fee, the most collectable 25 per cent of programmes (mostly drama, news and current affairs) since 1985 have been stored.

This arrangement — voluntary at the moment — might soon become law. There is a government-sponsored clause in the broadcasting bill that will make it a condition of franchise that the companies contribute to a fund held by the Independent Television Commission to commission a body (almost certainly the NFA) to handle archiving. The NFA is lobbying for the clause to be extended to cover Channel 4 and the domestic satellite services.

But maintaining an archive is an expensive business. Ms Hanford's collection grows by thousands of titles every month; all of which have to be categorised and housed in the right environmentally controlled conditions. The library in Brentford, in London, where it is all stored employs 130 people.

"The pressure from the British Film Institute for a national television archive is very important," Ms Hanford says.

A lot of producers are outraged about what's been lost, but if you ask them for 10 per cent of their production budget for archiving, you don't get the same response."

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Application forms to be returned by September 19th.

Part-Time Sub-Editor 'No Need to Shout'

BBC News & Current Affairs ('Ceefax')

CEEFAX, the BBC's Teletext Service, is looking for a person with journalistic skills to work part-time on *No Need to Shout*, the weekly magazine for the deaf and hard of hearing transmitted on CEEFAX every Saturday and Sunday.

The ideal applicant must be able to report objectively on deaf and hard of hearing culture, issues and concerns, and should be able to express them in the concise style of BBC CEEFAX pages. The ability to use a micro-computer would be an advantage, although full training will be given. This 20-hour a week post could be filled by someone working at home.

We welcome applications from people with disabilities, particularly those who are deaf or hard of hearing, as this will be seen as an additional qualification. Salary \$15,630 - \$21,242 p.a. (1 pro rata). Based West London.

Contact us immediately for application form (quote ref: 7672/T and enclose s.a.e. BBC Corporate Recruitment Services, London W1A 1AA. Tel: 071-927 5799.

Application forms to be returned by September 20th.

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1992 YORK FESTIVAL AND MYSTERY PLAYS

Festival Producer

£19,911-£21,447: 3 year contract - Ref. 11/38/900/TT

Artistic Director

£14,180-£15,102: contract to Sept. 1992 - Ref. 11/27/AD/TT

The next York Festival and Mystery Plays, which are organised by an independent Board, will take place in the summer of 1992. The Board is planning to consolidate the artistic and financial success of previous festivals. The Council, which is the principal funder of the Festival, seeks to establish it within the calendar of varied leisure opportunities provided for the people of York. Together the Board and the Council wish to make these two important appointments to take executive responsibility for the business administration and artistic programme of the 1992 Festival.

The FESTIVAL PRODUCER will be a new post established within the Council's progressive Leisure Services Department, initially on a three year contract. The postholder will be seconded to the Board to take overall responsibility for the business and organisation of the Festival.

The ARTISTIC DIRECTOR will be appointed by the Board and will be responsible, through the Producer, to the Board for all aspects of the artistic programme, including the arrangements for the production of the cycle of the Mystery Plays, the centrepiece of the York Festival and a distinct feature of the heritage of the people of York.

The role of Producer will place a premium on a proven track record in the management of large scale or complex arts projects, and the successful candidate will have proven abilities in financial and resource management, as well as essential activities such as business sponsorship, marketing and audience building.

The Artistic Director will need to demonstrate achievement in artistic programming and Festival organisation, show an excellent knowledge of current artistic product, and have appropriate skills of creativity and communication to work with local and national organisations, amateur and professional performers.

For an informal chat about either of these posts, call Paul Cheshire, Director of Leisure Services, on 0904 813161 ext. 1800 before 14 September.

For further details and application forms, contact Margaret Lydon, Personnel Group, York City Council, Gildhall, York, YO1 1QN or ring our 24 hourphone 0904 611301 spending appropriate reference number. Closing date 28 September 1990.

York City Council is working towards Equal Opportunities and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. Disabled applicants supported by their Disabilities. Recruitment Officer will be interviewed.

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MEDIA

As another launch approaches, Tim Willis reports on the crowded home design magazine market

Is there any room in the interior?

Another monthly interior design magazine, *Metropolitan Home* — an offshoot of the eponymous American title — will be launched in Britain on September 13. But is there any more room in the market? Do their glossy photographic features have any application in real life?

Dee Nolan, the editor of the British *Metropolitan Home*, thinks so. "There is a new generation to be reached," she says.

"They are desperately in search of ideas, which they can't get from the traditional titles. But they are busy people, too, so we are going to do the legwork for them. They go shopping at Joseph and Conran, but maybe they don't know how a vase will look once it is brought back home. We are going to show how someone has used it in their own apartment."

Ms Nolan is hoping to reach 75,000 readers, aiming at young couples rather than the traditional female market, but the competition on the newsagents' shelves will be stiff.

As well as the magazine-style catalogues produced by Marks & Spencer and Laura Ashley, there are *The World of Interiors*, *House and Garden*, *Homes and Gardens*, *Interior*, *Country Homes* and *Country Living*. *Period Living*, *Traditional Homes*, *Individual Homes*, *Ideal Home*, *House Beautiful*, *The Kitchen*, and *Kitchens, Bedrooms and Bathrooms*.

At the more popular end of the market, these magazines are certainly practical: *Ideal Home* not only gives step-by-step instructions on building a kitchen, for example, but provides cut-out-and-keep plans of floors and furniture on which to practise room layouts.

At the glossy end, *The World of Interiors*, edited by Min Hogg, seeks to educate by example rather than diagrams. The magazine may feature the most tasteful homes most tastefully, it may have ougrets of priceless information buried in its captions and text, but its only overt concessions to practicality are a few pages of shopping and tips.

Readers who find *The World of Interiors* too grand and *Ideal Home* too pop have previously settled with the likes of *Homes and Gardens* — "because we show them rooms in which every ingredient can be bought in the shops, and copied down to the last

detail", according to Amanda Evans, the editor.

But the demands of the middle market can lead to a stuffy conformity in the houses shown. The generation which grew up reading *The Face* — who have seen the style explosion in the high street and are interested in contemporary design — must wait months until *The World of Interiors* deems a modern flat well-enough "done" to photograph, or they turn to specialist and sometimes esoteric magazines such as *Blueprint*. These people, Ms Nolan hopes, will be *Metropolitan Home*'s readers.

Ms Nolan dismisses much of her competition as "passive picture books". In contrast to the expansive, calm spreads of *The World of Interiors*, she promises a busy design by Stafford Cliff. While most magazines keep people to a

minimum in their pictures ("They don't tend to look very good doing nothing in their own houses," Miss Hogg says), Ms Nolan promises happy young designer-couples on the cover.

"We are not going to say you need to be colour-ordinated right down to the last inch," Ms Nolan says. "A home is not a showpiece, it is where you live — in the garden, eating, cooking." She promises food columns, personality interviews, motoring and travel features.

Ms Nolan claims that she is "rewriting the rule book for home-interest magazines". Miss Hogg fears that she will "just get in the way — there are already too many magazines chasing the same houses". Her Crawford, the editor of *Elle Decoration*, says: "It's about lifestyle, not decorating, so we are not really competing." Ms

Crawford claims her magazine, aimed at a slightly younger audience than Ms Nolan's, "is at the inspirational end of the practical market", and cites as an example a recent six-page feature on how to customise a divan into a four-poster bed.

However, Ms Crawford welcomes *Metropolitan Home*. "It can only help to increase interest in the subject. People say the British market is crowded, but it is pathetically small, compared with France. There, as a matter of course, people buy the decorating magazines to stay abreast of new ideas." The result, she claims, is a wider range and higher quality of goods in the shops.

The way in which the successes of the Eighties design boom — among them Laura Ashley and Colefax &

Fowler — were influenced by the images first published by *The World of Interiors*, underlines the usefulness of the glossies. But Ms Crawford thinks that the public remains suspicious "because they need to have features signposted very clearly as 'practical'".

Ms Crawford, whose last job was assistant editor to Miss Hogg, says that close and frequent reading of these magazines can help readers in selecting decorating choices. And many readers would admit that magazines have taught them a lot about architecture and auctions, and provided them with mundane decorating facts, such as the way that dark-painted skirting boards, or a uniform colour scheme, or cramming in the furniture, all appear to increase the size of a small flat; and overhead lighting makes everything look ghastly.

Miss Hogg believes that the secret of her magazine is "Even if you are not interested in hanging the curtains, it is a beautiful thing to look at." Ms Nolan says hers will be "proper journalism" and "a finger on the pulse". And they will never attract the readers of *Ideal Home* until they publish floor plans.

DENZIL MCNEALANCE



Designs for living: Dee Nolan believes there is a new generation desperately in search of ideas for the home

Green series succeeds in commercial jungle

Adrian Cowell spent a decade filming the rain forest, but is his breed facing extinction?



Adrian Cowell: "I follow the story through to the end"

Like many such influential projects, Adrian Cowell's journey to Brazil to film the destruction of the Amazonian rain forest started low-key. In January 1980, he had a six-month contract to direct one documentary for Central Independent Television.

He stayed ten years, making eight films which covered everything from the early colonisation of the forest to the murder of his friend, Chico Mendes, leader of the rubber tappers in the remote state of Acre, in December 1988.

Now, drawing on the 750,000 ft of film he shot over the period, plus some new material, Mr Cowell, aged 56, has repackaged his output into a five-part series, *The Decade of Destruction*, which begins on Channel 4 next Monday.

Over those ten years Central spent more than £2 million on the project. Additional finance came from co-producers in the United States and Brazil. Will such a commitment of finance, resources and manpower ever be possible again? Environmentalists fear not — at least, not in Britain after 1991, when new television franchises are awarded.

Their argument goes like this. Freed from their obligation to provide an element of public service broadcasting, ITV companies will opt for the lowest common denominator in their programming. As satellite and other outlets proliferate, advertising revenue will be spread more thinly, resulting — so Roger James, Central's controller of features, predicts — in less up-front money for programme-makers. "The kind of risk-taking associated with projects like Adrian's will be more difficult," he says.

David Puttnam, the film producer, has pointed to the potential conflict of interests between commercial franchise operators and film-makers

trying to express the connections between issues such as trade, debt, social justice, war and the environment.

Mr Cowell himself says: "My guess is that I'm a dinosaur gradually going to extinction."

All is not lost. In February 1989, 50 voluntary agencies came together in the Third World Environment and Broadcasting Trust to discuss a common response to the government's white paper on broadcasting. They focused on the threat posed to coverage of international issues. As the broadcasting bill stood until mid-July, potential applicants for ITV franchises only had to provide news and current affairs. Now, following an amendment in the Lords, they will also have to offer not only documentaries, but also educational and social action programmes.

The ecologically minded have also, belatedly, begun to realise that their programmes can compete on the open market. Cowell's *Mountains of Gold*, which dealt with the scramble for minerals in Amazonia, attracted 3.5 million viewers in December 1988. Central's two-hour *Sirivudha* special, *Amazonia: The Last Frontier*, was watched by eight million in September 1989. While not of the *Neighbours* size, these audiences are intelligent, well-heeled and can command premium advertising rates.

Mr Cowell can take credit for one of the most promising developments on the scene.

Sitting in the Brazilian forests in 1984, he dreamed up the Television Trust for the Environment, which now pumps more than £500,000 of seed money a year into development films. Mr James says film-makers only have to guard against being repetitive. He wants more development issues aired in drama, music and even comedy.

Mr Cowell brings an up-beat message from the front line as well. He has a crew in Brazil filming the annual tree-burning season, which started two weeks ago. They tell him it is difficult to find any conflagration. Data collected by satellite shows burning is down by around half.

Following Mendes's death, 50 million acres of land have been set aside as reserves for rubber tappers. Next weekend, Mr Cowell flies out to Brazil to interview the new environment minister, Dr Jose Lutzenberger, one of the few local activists who fought against the destruction of the Amazon from the start. This is the sort of rounded perspective the firemen from the news and current affairs programmes cannot give. As Mr Cowell says: "I follow the story through to the end." His advice for fellow professionals is, however: "One of the secrets of film-making is never to inform your financiers — quite — how deep they're getting into it."

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Prisoner of her conscience



Carmella LaSpada (left) has devoted 18 years to the cause of those trapped in the crossfire of terrorism. Now, Victoria McKee reports, she is helping Gulf hostage families

Carmella LaSpada says she has put her life on hold for the past 18 years to further the interests of those who are not free to make such a choice. Now she hopes the people of Britain will lend their efforts to her latest initiative, Operation Brave Heart, and implement something along the lines of the "USA Give" programme, which offers psychological support to the families of those held in Iraq by President Saddam Hussein.

A telephone helpline has in fact now been set up for the families of British hostages by the Gulf Support Group, which received a visit in London yesterday from the Princess of Wales, and the Foreign Office is referring families requiring practical or emotional support to it. Its organisers expect to learn much from the American model.

Miss LaSpada is the founder and director of No Greater Love, a group based in Washington, DC, which offers support to the families of hostages and prisoners of war, and works to commemorate those who have died or are missing in action in the armed services, or through the actions of terrorists.

Miss LaSpada has so far established 13 annual "remembrance days" in the United States calendar, including April 25 for the eight men killed in the abortive Iran hostage rescue mission in 1980, October 7 for journalists killed while covering wars or conflicts, October 23 for victims of terrorism generally, and December 21 for victims of the terrorist bombing of Pan Am flight 103.

With only about \$10,000 (£5,250) in annual donations, mostly from trade unions, plus the voluntary service of professional people like herself, Miss LaSpada fights to keep alive the memory of British as well as American hostages, believing that, since terrorism is international, it will take a concerted international effort to combat it.

Campaigning was not intended to be a life work. "I'm still hoping to start my career in television some day," she says. "I do reporting, producing, special features. I haven't actually done any yet, but that's what I trained to do and I'm planning to do some day."

"I kept saying I'd do this for six more months, but each time I was ready to get on with my life there'd be another crisis: the Iranian hostage crisis, then the escalation of terrorism, then Beirut... There's no other organisation in the world that does what we do, otherwise I would have closed the doors long ago."

From the two rooms donated to her voluntary "non-profit, non-political" organisation by the powerful American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organisations, Miss LaSpada can keep an eye on the White House and make sure it does not ignore her. Surrounded by pictures of hos-

tages and their families, and inspirational quotations from the Kennedys — she worked for President Kennedy when she left college — she prides herself on being as tenacious as a hull terrier once she takes up a crusade. Modesty is not noticeable among her virtues. "Many people have ideas," she says briskly, "but I implement mine."

One such, Operation Hero Flag, grants a "hero flag certificate" to the children of a dead or missing person, whose birthday is then commemorated by an American flag flown in Washington on the day. Jimmy Plowden, whose father was shot down in Southeast Asia in 1961, three months before Jimmy was born, was the first beneficiary of what might seem, to some, a meaningless ritual. However, Miss LaSpada says such rituals of remembrance are important, providing — in addition to the public recognition — constant private reinforcement.

"My main concern is for the children," Miss LaSpada says. "They feel they've been caught in a crossfire of hatred — very different from children who have lost a parent through divorce or death by natural causes. They feel very strongly that it's not fair, and that they were not prepared for this."

That is why No Greater Love is establishing links with Leslie Kern, a clinical psychologist who has organised a free "hotline" offering swift psychological help to the families of Gulf hostages. Dr Kern, who is based in Ohio, has urged Britain and other countries to set up similar networks.

She explains: "We have a free-phone number, with lines donated by the telephone companies, which will allow callers to be connected immediately with a psychologist who will, in turn, contact a relevant psychologist in the caller's area who has volunteered to help."

Miss LaSpada claims that "nearly 80 per cent of the marriages of former hostages break up when they return", but adds: "It is our experience that if the marriage was strong before the crisis it will survive — even if on a different footing."

What distinguishes a hostage crisis from more common-or-garden domestic tragedies, Dr Kern and Miss LaSpada agree, is its unexpectedness and uncertainty, which give rise to feelings of impotence and unfocused fury. "There is no preparation for it, and no resolution in sight," Dr Kern says. "It's not like a plane crash, where you mourn the tragedy and move on."

"People don't know what they're adjusting to. The threat continues, and there is also the additional factor of strong public emotion which can cause a strain, and even a stigma, on the relatives, who may be greeted by others with shock,



Caught in the media glare: freed hostage Stuart Lockwood, with his mother and the Rev Jesse Jackson

and, ultimately, avoidance. "Another unique factor suffered by the families of hostages is witnessing the sometimes cruel and exploitative use of their loved ones, and all the media pressures. The children who are expected to come back from Iraq while their fathers are still held may bear an additional burden of what is known as 'survivor guilt' because of the pain of having to leave them."

The psychology of hostages and hostage families is still a comparatively new field. "We, as therapists, are having to do a lot of learning about this very quickly," Dr Kern says, "and I think many psychologists are very anxious to be able to do something because of the tremendous feeling of impotence the current situation engenders in the country as a whole."

A number of psychologists who worked with victims of the Iran hostage crisis volunteered their help for the USA Give scheme, and Ohio State University has compiled a library of cuttings on which the volunteers can call. "Often the parent who is left Stateside will feel a need to compensate for the absence of the other parent and become a super-parent, and in the process will usually neglect her own needs. She can become so focused on the child she doesn't realise she has no support," Dr Kern says.

Miss LaSpada is now busy promoting Operation Brave Heart. "We're trying to encourage people to write to their troops in the Middle East to keep up their morale," she says. "We hope citizens of other countries who have sent troops or ships to the Gulf area

will join us in sending messages of friendship and encouragement."

In Britain the Ministry of Defence says that "people began writing spontaneously to our troops in the Falklands without any organised initiative. But in order to do so you would need to obtain a BFPO — British Forces Post Office — number from the Ministry of Defence, and I'm not sure we can give one out for the Gulf at this time."

The British helpline office, which has been set up by Joanna Copley, whose sister is a hostage in Kuwait, is open from 9am to 9pm (071-430 9920), and there is an attempt to have a trained counsellor on hand in every shift of volunteers. "We will also refer people to local support groups being set up around the country," a spokeswoman says.

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Down the Street to memory lane

As Ken, Deirdre and the gang approach a historic milestone, to one man it will be just another note in the archives

Ask Daran Little when he decided to join Britain's most successful television soap opera and he can pinpoint the exact moment. He was taking part in a quiz about *Coronation Street* on stage in a Manchester theatre and in the shadows below he caught a glimpse of Pat Phoenix, one of the show's stars.

"This glamorous actress in this gritty northern drama," he says dreamily, "I decided then that being a fan wasn't enough."

If that sounds more like the road to Damascus than *Coronation Street*, then you have to remember that to many people the programme is much more than the orchestrated gossip of other television soap operas. Sir John Betjeman compared it with *Pickwick Papers*. "Thank God," he said, "At half past seven tonight I shall be in paradise."

Roy Hattersley, the deputy leader of the Labour party, says anyone who fails to identify with the programme is either profoundly insensitive or simply peculiar. He made his remarks when delivering the *Coronation Street* birthday lecture at the Edinburgh Festival, for which, as one wag said, he should be awarded the *EastEnders* philosophy trophy.

This is serious stuff and nobody knows that better than Mr Little. He is the programme's official archivist. For those who do not care whether Ken goes back to Deirdre or about Tina's new romance, this is a good time to leave the country. Mr Hattersley's lecture was the opening shot in celebrations which will run up to the programme's thirtieth birthday in early December. We are about to be engulfed in a wave of streetiana.

This story of life in a short street of seven houses, slung between a pub and a corner shop, exerts astonishing power. The longest-running soap in the world... the most successful ever made in this country... for three years it has been around the top of the ratings with viewing figures of 15 million. Some evenings, half the population watch it.

"The Street", as it is affectionately known, strives to keep faith with its viewers, which is where Mr Little comes in. A tall, gently-spoken young man, he sits at his computer, where a couple of taps on the keyboard flash up details of the 49 deaths, the 30 weddings, the ten births, and

every possible breakdown and classification of the 190 residents and their stories. Often he does not need the computer. What was the name of the driver of the coach which crashed in the Lake District in 1969? Reg Ellis. What was Irma Ogden's real name and why did she change it? Freda, which she thought lacked glamour. Daran Little, who changed the spelling of his own name, would have no problem choosing his subject for *Mastermind*.

Much of it is history in the sense that it has been established in scripts over the years. Where it doesn't exist, he invents it. He has given every resident a telephone number, and the postcode, GMI 5SC, is registered with the Post Office.

Mr Little is an unlikely man for the job. For one thing, the series had been running for four years when he was born. Less forgivably, he is a somnolent who never heard the poetic ring of elegiac cobbles. In Middlesex, he learnt to love the programme on visits to his grandmother. At the age of 17, he made that fateful pilgrimage to Manchester where he won £500 in a magazine quiz, even though he failed to identify the correct date of the death of Mavis Riley's budgie.

After taking a degree in television production, with a dissertation on you-know-what, he joined the show two years ago. He also embraces northern life off screen. With his wife and seven-month-old son, he lives in a two-up, two-down, end-terrace house, in Healden Bridge, in West Yorkshire, tucked between canal and mill.

The Street's fans miss nothing. The secret of the programme, he says, comes from the strong women characters, such as Ena Sharples, and their humour. "If her tongue had been any longer she could have shaved with it."

To most viewers, *Coronation Street* is a sooty Camelot, a myth they choose to believe. Last year more than half a million of them went round the television set, but it is at the display case that you see the true power of the illusion. Sombre-faced, they stand in silence as they contemplate the sacred relics... Deirdre's glasses, Minnie's belt, the very hat worn by Mavis when she jilted Derek. Most heart-breaking of all, spread out like a dwarf's fishing gear, Ena Sharples's hairnet. The remains of 30 years of paradise.

COLIN DUNNE

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Streetwise: Daran Little, *Coronation Street's* archivist

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Uplifting & BRIEFLY news

THE good news is that, from next week, a capsule collection of lingerie from around the world will be available to order 24 hours a day, by telephone or fax, from the new Belladonna catalogue. Top brands, featuring silks from France, cottons from America and towelling from Turkey, have been assembled at reasonable prices in a single colour catalogue.

The bad news is that, despite the immediacy of the ordering methods, the Belladonna catalogue promises no improvement on the 28-day delivery period of the old-style catalogues. If it is targeted at what it describes as the "smart busy woman", it has a long way to go in both style and delivery time. Prices (almost all under £30, even for night-shirts and "lounge" sets) show that it is aimed chiefly at the popularly priced polyester market. But being able to order stockings and tights by post is undoubtedly a plus. For your catalogue, contact Belladonna, PO Box 1011, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 7YG (0305 848725).

Fit for work

COURSES for working women and women returners are still a boom industry. The City of London Polytechnic has announced its new Short Course Programme, which increases the topics in its women-at-work section. These include creating a corporate image, management development, career planning and how to sell yourself at interviews. Fees range from £75 (for a two-evening course) to £230 for a four-day course in management development. Details from the Short Course Unit, City of London Polytechnic, 84 Moorgate, London EC2M 6SQ (071-256 8843).

An exhibition for women returners, Women Returners '91, will be held at the Barbican Exhibition Halls in London from January 24 to 26 next year. Information from Olivia Williams, exhibition manager, World Trade Promotions, 19-21 High Street, Sutton, Surrey SM1 1NF (081-642 7688).

Animal magic

ANIMAL lovers attending the Burrell Remy Martin Horse Trials, which begin tomorrow and run until Sunday, will be able to look at more than horses. The equestrian event will be accompanied by a "fair", in which such top London shops as Harrods, Garrard's and Aquascutum are taking part, and some interesting country crafts and household accessories will be displayed. Among them, on the *Country Living* magazine stand, will be the animal ceramics — tiles and dinnerware — of Hinchcliffe & Barber (5 Town Farm Workshop, Dean Lane, Sixpenny Handley, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 5PA, tel. 0725 52549), many with co-ordinating fabrics, and the wonderful animal needlepoint kits of Elizabeth Bradley.

Copied from late-18th and early-19th century designs, her charming King Charles spaniels, cats, parrots and lovebirds, suitable for cushions, carpets or chair seats, have been joined by a "Beasts of the Field" collection of sows with piglets, sheep and oxen. The kits may be ordered by mail from Elizabeth Bradley Designs, 1 West End, Beaumaris, Anglesey, North Wales LL58 8BD (0248 811055), and a free colour catalogue and price list is available. Kits cost about £40, and designs can be ordered already made up for considerably more.

VICTORIA MCKEE

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A MEMBER OF KIDS

ARTS

LITERATURE

Murder most phenomenal

Horrible crimes are taking place in Torquay — simulated for the benefit of an elaborate centenary tribute to the town's most celebrated daughter, Agatha Christie. Although the so-called Mystery on the English Riviera campaign does not reach its peak until September 15 (Christie's actual birthday), Tim Whitehead, director of the centenary festival, has announced that because of intense worldwide interest the event is set to become an annual fixture. "We now have a durable product which, in time," he says, "may stand alongside the Cannes Film Festival and the Montreux Jazz Festival."

Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller was an unlikely candidate to become one of the world's most popular writers — or, indeed, any sort of writer at all. In her autobiography (written between 1950 and 1965, and published posthumously in 1977) she tells of her idyllic childhood, in which she received no schooling whatsoever (not even from a governess). Although she read voraciously — flying in the face of her mother's belief that no child should so much as look at a book before the age of eight — even in her early twenties, Christie nurtured no desire to become an author. "It never even entered my head," she later wrote.

In 1914, when she was 24, Christie broke off her engagement to a suitor in order to marry a young army officer named Archibald Christie. During the first world war, she worked in a dispensary in Torquay (the source of her abiding fascination with poisons); it was here she came into contact with Belgian refugees, who provided her with the inspiration to create Hercule Poirot.

Her first novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, was rejected by six publishers before being brought out by John Lane in 1920; the book caused no great stir. There was another novel every year until 1926 when *The Murder of Roger*



Joseph Connolly reports on the enduring popularity of Agatha Christie, creator of detective Hercule Poirot

Ackroyd was published to great acclaim. During the same year, Christie's mother died and her husband took up with another woman. The combined strain led to the famous vanishing act which catapulted the author into the public consciousness.

In mysterious circumstances worthy of one of her own novels, Christie booked into a Harrogate hotel under an assumed name (actually that of her husband's mistress). Her disappearance, and the subsequent discovery of her whereabouts, generated enormous interest in the woman and her books — and the Queen of Crime was born. In 1928 she divorced her husband (by whom she had a daughter) and in 1930 married the archaeologist Max Mallowan, with whom she lived for the remainder of her life.

Dame Agatha Christie (an honour bestowed five years before her death in 1976) has now become a statistician's dream, with 78 crime novels, 150 short stories, four non-

fictional works, six romances (under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott) and 20 plays, all amounting to cumulative worldwide sales of about two billion in more than 100 languages. Although some sources place Erle Stanley Gardner and Barbara Cartland ahead of her, Christie is generally credited with having been outsold only by the Bible and Shakespeare. Her play, *The Mousetrap*, is a source of wonder in itself, having been performed in 44 countries before an estimated audience of eight million people, while its unbroken 38-year run on the West End stage has generated over £15 million in royalties. All of these facts raise the question: why?

That Christie is a good read can hardly be in dispute. Her plots are often superb, and the British (along with, it would appear, the rest of the world) love a cosy murder. However, nobody has ever made great claims for her as a writer. Nor can her extraordinary appeal be credited to her strength of characterisation, for although it is true that Poirot and Miss Marple are among the most famous fictional characters of all time, each seems equally insufferable, and, at base, tedious and egomaniacal. Furthermore, the rest of her cast of characters is consistently two-dimensional (the Major, the Vicar, the Spinster and so on) — a reason why, perhaps, a game of Cluedo remains an acceptable alternative to reading Christie.

Few people will bother to debate the writer's literary worth: her fans will say they have read all her books countless times, while other practitioners of the art form, such as Julian Symonds and H. R. F. Keating (each of whom has a claim to be the King of Crime), tend to genuflect to the begetter of the genre, while seeking to excuse the paucity of her language (Christie does not have a single entry in the *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*).



Dame Agatha Christie, whose works have been outsold only by The Bible and Shakespeare

Christie was inoffensive, uncontroversial, dependable, prolific and famous. These qualities, along with the endless television and film re-workings of her thoroughly British fireside slaughters, seem sufficient to ensure enormous sales forever. Helen Ellis of Collins, Christie's publisher since 1926, says that while all 78 novels are kept in print in hardback ("largely for the libraries"), last year 750,000 paperbacks were sold

in Britain alone. "This year we are aiming at a million; we are more or less there."

The Agatha Christie exhibition at the Torquay Museum is attracting large crowds. Over the next ten days there will be a season of her films, a clutch of Christie plays at the local theatre, lectures, organised murder weekends, a crime writers' conference, a centenary banquet and an appearance by the Orient Express, star of one

of her most well-known novels. "No one comes close to Christie," says Peter Spenceley, paperback fiction buyer for Hatchards. "Big sellers come and go, but for sheer staying power there is nothing, nothing like Christie. She's a phenomenon, really."

Information about the Christie festival can be obtained from The Mystery Office, Torquay Tourist Board, Vaughan Parade, Torquay, (0803 296296).

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Key change for the Philharmonia

Richard Morrison talks to Claus Peter Flor, principal guest conductor of the Philharmonia

Yesterday's announcement that Claus Peter Flor, a 37-year-old East German, is to become principal guest conductor of the Philharmonia, will go some way towards rebuilding that orchestra's self-confidence. The essential point about Flor is that he is a name for the future. As yet he is hardly known to British concert-goers, but he has already spent six years at the helm of one of East Germany's finest orchestras, and his recordings have received glowing reviews.

That forward-looking aspect is important for an orchestra which has seen glorious times, but also shattering disappointments. Sublime heights were reached in the Fifties, when classic recordings were conducted by Karajan, Giulini and Klemperer. A nadir was reached after Klemperer's death in 1973, then the orchestra experienced a brilliant revival when the young Riccardo Muti took charge.

The last decade, however, has been filled with problems. Concert after concert, conducted by the present music director, Giuseppe Sinopoli, has been marred by the London critics. A young orchestra, including some of Britain's finest instrumentalists, must have experienced demoralisation, yet it remained remarkably loyal. Once more the dogged instinct for survival has proved to be a dominant feature of British musicianship, whether that is applied to playing a concert on too little rehearsal, or keeping an orchestra going on too little money.

Within the last year, a corner was turned — or so it seemed. The Philharmonia players were extremely optimistic about their chance of winning the Festival Hall residency, and with reasonable cause: they had undertaken much of the South Bank's most difficult concert projects in the previous two seasons. Perhaps because of this expectation, they broke with Sinopoli — which was

a painful episode, by all accounts. Then, in January this year, came a ghastly nemesis: the South Bank residency, went to the rival London Philharmonic. The Philharmonia faced a future as London's "second string" orchestra, picking up the less desirable dates and the less exalted conductors, yet alienated from Sinopoli and his valuable Deutsche Grammophon recording contract.

The appointment of Flor will not immediately lift the Philharmonia out of these difficulties. For one thing, the principal guest conductor's responsibilities are confined to making music, not to planning long-term strategy. But it is a sensible appointment. Flor is steeped in the Austro-Germanic tradition that is also central to the Philharmonia's own history, and he is a conductor on the way up.

He came to international attention in unique circumstances three years ago, when he became the first East Berlin resident to cross the Wall and conduct the Berlin Philharmonic. He was then, and still is, conductor of the Berlin Symphony Orchestra, based in East Berlin and giving its concerts at the magnificent Schauspielhaus. Indeed, one of the most impressive points about Flor is his loyalty to his East German orchestra, especially in the pre-1989 period when many talented East German conductors skipped to plusher posts in the West.

Now Flor is well placed to assess what might happen to the orchestras of a unified Germany. The foundation of future funding is not yet clear; after all, the first agreement between East and West Germany, two months ago, had no details about culture at all. It is already clear that not all of East Germany's 88 orchestras will survive, but I hope it is recognised that we have 10 or 15 of international quality.

As for Berlin, that is a special case. Since unification, we have 12



Outwardly dynamic, although cautious: Claus Peter Flor

professional orchestras in one city. That makes even London's problem of too many orchestras seem a little provincial, I think. Yet this is a wonderful chance for Berlin to become the cultural capital of the world. Already people are making comparisons with the 1920s, although I think we do not have the same calibre of conductors today.

In musical terms, Flor usually describes himself succinctly as "a Saxon, not a Prussian". He will try to make a string section shimmer, his interpretations will radiate warmth and character, and his performances will often go differently from the way he rehearsed

them. His recordings of Martinů and Mendelssohn are full of spirit, and he is tackling Wagner for the first time this year (and doing *Parsifal* in Düsseldorf in 1994). "For me, the road to Mahler is long," he says, which will be a relief to those music-lovers who think that conductors want to move much too fast, and for the wrong reason, into Mahler's epic symphonies. Often it seems a case of "apocalypse now, learn the score properly later".

That will never be Flor's attitude. For all his outwardly dynamic personality, he is cautious about his career. "The way to approach a lot of important repertoire is not to approach it at all until you are at least 50. Well, perhaps once, in a small city without music critics, just for practice."

WORLD MUSIC

Cultural mosaics

David Toop looks at popular singers who fuse world music with Western rock

With the Arab world a hotbed of shifting, unpredictable alliances, small efforts directed towards cultural exchange can only be welcomed. Later this month, Anne Dudley and Jaz Coleman will release an album entitled *Songs from the Victorious City*, a collection of atmospheric pieces which attempt to fuse the scales and timbres of Egypt with rock rhythms and electronics.

In 1983 Dudley assisted Malcolm McLaren with *Duck Rock*, a record which imposed McLaren's world view on music of various cultures. *Songs from the Victorious City* is certainly a less irritating document of musical tourism than *Duck Rock*, since it scrupulously tries to avoid McLaren's heavy-handed dominance over the raw material. As these exquisitely produced CD cultural pow-wows proliferate, however, they show increasing signs of becoming the aural equivalent of Treichliff's Chinese woman. A little of McLaren's abrasive sense of the discordant mosaic of the real world would add some vitality to a filtered genre.

A tradition of rock impressionism has accumulated over the last 30 years; perhaps it began with white musicians like Elvis Presley, Mick Jagger and John Lennon visiting the legendary Apollo Theatre in Harlem in order to soak up what they believed to be the mysteries of black culture.

The former Rolling Stone Brian Jones stepped even further into this perceived heart of darkness when he travelled to a Moroccan village to record the villagers' strange, wailing music. These tapes were released by the Rolling Stones after his death, heavily treated electronically, with a sucker laid over the original album title. Brian Jones Presents *The Pipes of Pan at Jajouka* was the final title, whereas the original had claimed that Jones was an active musical participant. The

fact that he had been otherwise occupied was made clear by a song written by the villagers, "Ah Brian Jones, Jajouka very stoned," went the lyrics.

Such keen interaction with local cultures is fairly typical of rock exoticism. Each region has had its explorer pioneers: George Harrison voyaged to India and launched the sitar into the pop charts, throwing many progressive Indians into a state of confusion. As Gita Mehta writes in her book, *Karma Cola*, "while population control and pop culture raced hand in hand through the Indian countryside, we of the cities were getting restless too. But just when the accelerator seemed within our reach, the unthinkable happened. The kings of rock and roll abdicated. To Ravi Shankar and the Maharishi."

Two years ago Kate Bush journeyed to Bulgaria to work with the singers of the Trio Bulgarka. Like Dudley and Coleman, her integration of these alien tunings into her resolutely European rock was interesting, yet essentially unadventurous.

There is no question that these attempts to expand the limited musical language of rock have enriched it; nevertheless, as a recently released album of modern Egyptian music (*Yalla: Hittit Egypt*) demonstrates, the really stimulating musical thefts and exchanges are coming from the opposite direction.

BRIEFING

Season of surprises

THE BBC Symphony Orchestra celebrates its 60th anniversary with a season that emphasises the orchestra's pre-eminence in 20th-century music. Yesterday a winter season was announced which includes three world premieres by Jonathan Harvey, Dominic Muldowney and Howard Skempton. Moreover, the BBC SO's five autumn concerts in the Festival Hall consist almost entirely of pieces either premiered or introduced to this country by the orchestra. The season opens on October 8 with Dame Gwyneth Jones singing Schoenberg's *L'Invitation* and Nigel Kennedy playing Berg's Violin Concerto.

Pensionable parts

WHEN David Lean's long-planned film of Joseph Conrad's *Nostromo* moves into production (with luck, next January), one person will receive a healthy cheque for twiddling his thumbs. That person is David Lean's stand-in: somebody who could step into the breach if the 82-year-old director proved unable to complete the assignment. Names of possible thumb-twiddlers have been bandied around. At first the director of *Bonnie and Clyde*, Arthur Penn, was lined up, and then Axel Corti, best-known for *Wekonte in Vietnam*, emerged.

Lean's fellow British directors have not been forgotten. The maverick John Boorman (57) has expressed his eagerness to help the octogenarian to mount what must be regarded as his final film. But the name now mentioned is Guy Hamilton, plodding but dependable veteran of *The Cid*, *Story* and assorted Bond adventures, who is 68 this month. Any more candidates?

Breaking the mould

PERHAPS every doctor wants to become a novelist like Somerset Maugham, and every stockbroker wants to run to Tahiti and become a painter like Gauguin. But it is curious to find dentists starting a stampede towards sculpture. Richard Maltzman has apparently thrown up dentistry in order to become a full-time sculptor, working in free forms which suggest a happy liberation from the fitting and matching of the average dentist's day.

Now another contender enters the field — Neil Lawson Baker, who has a one-man show opening at the Waterman Gallery next week. He continues dentistry as well, and seems to have no difficulty in combining the two callings. Possibly a deep interest in philosopher Kahlil Gibran, the subject of a series of works, aids him to soar effortlessly out of the mouth and into the infinite.

Rose gala

THE West End gala premiere tonight of *Sir Thomas More*, the literary curiosity which most scholars now agree was partly written by Shakespeare, could help to reveal more of the theatre for which it was commissioned nearly 400 years ago. The performance is in aid of the Rose Theatre Trust, which is raising money to pay for further excavation and possible preservation of the site in Southwark, London.

The original owner of the Rose, Sir Philip Henslowe, commissioned Anthony Munday to write the play in 1591 and Munday called in four writers to help him, including, according to scholars, the youthful Shakespeare (who also probably acted on the Rose stage). Because of its political overtones, the play was never performed in its own time. It is now being revived by the Stage One Theatre Company, a London-based troupe devoted to promoting forgotten plays. *Sir Thomas More*, which opens tomorrow, can be seen until September 29 at the Shaw Theatre (071-388 1394).

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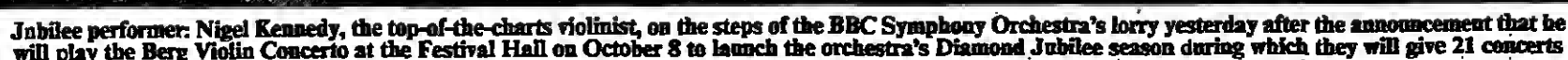
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By HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE TIMES



United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and the remnants of the Kuwaiti forces who number about

CROSSWORD PUZZ

LE NO 18,391

Parts of eastern England will have a dry and bright day. The rest will be cloudy. Early rain in

AM

Concise crossword, page 13

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AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

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overturn a Lords amendment to the bill which would have required ITV companies to air educational, social action and documentary programmes during prime time viewing.

1700

Li 'solicited shares to back HKSE listings'

From LULU YU IN HONG KONG

RONALD LI, the former chairman of the Hong Kong stock exchange, used his position to profit from the shares of two companies as a reward for supporting their listings in 1986 and 1987, the Hong Kong high court heard yesterday.

After approving the listing application by the Swire-controlled Cathay Pacific Airways in April 1986, Mr Li telephoned an executive of Wardley, the merchant bank advising the airline, to request half a million shares.

He got the shares, and sold them over a period of four months, making profits of about HK\$800,000 (£58,000), said Michael Kalisher, QC, opening the Crown case.

Mr Kalisher said Mr Li "deliberately concealed" his transaction and once lied about it to Robert Fell, the colony's former banking commissioner brought in to head the stock exchange after the worldwide market crash in October 1987.

"Why was he lying? Simply because he knew he'd been involved in a corrupt transaction. He sought, obtained and profited from the Cathay Pacific shares," said Mr Kalisher.

Mr Li, aged 60, faces two counts of accepting an advantage for supporting the granting of listing of shares in Cathay Pacific Airways and Novel Enterprises Ltd on the stock exchange in 1986 and 1987.

Mr Kalisher said on March

3 1987, Mr Li played a leading role in giving approval to the listing of Novel Enterprises. A day later, he phoned a Wardley executive acting for Novel and asked for 300,000 shares.

After being told of the request, Ronald Chao, the chairman of Novel Enterprises, acted on Wardley's advice and gave preferential allotment to Mr Li, who at the time was also chairman of the exchange's listing committee.

"He solicited shares and he got them," the jury was told. "Again the transaction was kept secret and again he made a substantial profit once the shares were listed by selling them."

Shares of both companies were heavily oversubscribed.

"What we must prove is that in each case, the preferential allotment was an advantage... that he accepted it in his capacity as an agent of the exchange, and that his state of mind was such that the advantage was a reward for having approved the listing," Mr Kalisher told the jury.

Mr Li, one of the richest men in Hong Kong, was the founding chairman of the stock exchange which opened in April, 1986, replacing four smaller exchanges.

He became steeped in controversy when he closed the exchange for four days after Black Monday, a move which shattered Hong Kong's reputation as a financial centre for international investors.

Investors benefit from 20% leap in payout



Popping corks for bigger profits: John Barker and Paul Wynne, finance director

Isotron celebrates healthy 23% profits rise to £2.95m

By MARTIN BARROW

DIRECTORS of Isotron, the quoted irradiation services group, were popping the champagne corks - bacteria free, of course - after announcing a 23 per cent increase in annual profits.

Corks, cosmetics, talcum powder and even animal bedding are among the consumer products sterilised by the irradiation process, which exposes items to gamma rays. The process is mainly used in

the medical sector to sterilise equipment.

Food irradiation is expected to be allowed in Britain from January 1, but John Barker, the managing director of Isotron, says the process is unlikely to be widely used by supermarkets in this country.

The main factor curtailing the use of irradiation is likely to be the adverse effect it has on the taste of certain foods, particularly fats. Irradiation of prod-

ucts such as fruit is unlikely to be cost effective, but herbs and spices, are said to be ideal for the process.

The company reported pre-tax profits up from £2.4 million to £2.95 million for the year to the end of June, on turnover 14 per cent higher at £5.43 million. A final dividend of 2.07p a share makes 3.12p for the year, up 20 per cent, payable from earnings of 15.5p a share, up 22 per cent.

Warning at CRH despite Ir£32m

By COLIN CAMPBELL

CRH, the international building materials group based in Ireland, so far appears to have bucked the trend experienced by many in its sector and reports an 18.2 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to Ir£32.1 million (£29.05 million) for the six months to June 30.

Turnover rose from Ir£300.9 million to Ir£360.3 million, and Tony Barry, the chief executive, says the geographic and product balance should ensure that full-year results show an improvement on a record 1989 outcome. The interim dividend rises by 14.3 per cent to Ir2p a share.

However, CRH gives a warning that since June 30, the downturn in British construction activity has intensified, and a slowing down in demand in the agricultural sector is likely to have an impact on the rate of volume growth in Ireland.

In addition, recent events in the Middle East have further clouded the international economic outlook. But there was a strong improvement in operating profits in Ireland and mainland Europe, and very modest increases in America and Britain.

Irish cement sales volumes advanced, though those of certain other construction materials showed greater strength.

In Britain, the continuing decline in housing activity has had an increasingly depressing effect on the group's Keystone merchandising operations, particularly in the Southeast. Anchor Tile also experienced difficult markets although demand for its specialised roofing products was helped as a result of the severe storms early in the year. In the Netherlands, all operations reported improved trading.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

News Limited sells distribution arm

NEWS Limited, part of The News Corporation, has sold the Australian and New Zealand operations of Gordon and Gough, its magazine distribution arm, and three provincial newspapers in Victoria to its associate, Independent Newspapers, the New Zealand group, for Aus\$150 million (£62.5 million).

Independent Newspapers is raising Aus\$122 million to help finance the deal. This is being achieved through a placing of 16.5 million 12 per cent convertible notes of Aus\$4 each, which will raise Aus\$66 million, and a one-for-one issue to all shareholders and noteholders, to raise a further Aus\$56 million. News Ltd will take up its full entitlement to both the placing and the cash issue, to maintain its interest at 49.7 per cent. Its net cash inflow from the deal will therefore be about Aus\$90 million.

Interim leap at Fairhaven

FAIRHAVEN International, the Bermuda-registered oil services group, boosted pre-tax profits from \$1.3 million to \$5.6 million in the first half of this year. Earnings a share, including a full contribution from Belmont Constructors of Houston, rose from 0.4 to 1.7 cents. Fairhaven gave a warning that industrial action in the North Sea would affect the second half.

Elf advances at half time

ELF Aquitaine, the French oil company that owns 25 per cent of Enterprise Oil, saw net income rise 14 per cent to Fr4.9 billion in the first half of 1990. Sales rose 13 per cent to Fr23.3 billion. Oil production rose by nearly 30 per cent to 104.3 million barrels at an average of \$17.9 a barrel. Operating profits from refining and marketing rose three-fold to Fr900 million.

Usher edges ahead

EVENING wear is as much in fashion as ever, says the USM-quoted fashion house, Frank Usher. Pre-tax profits for the year to end-May rose to £1.38 million (£1.29 million) on sales of £15.5 million (£13.3 million). Earnings per share fell from 13p to 12.6p as a result of higher tax and interest charges. The final dividend has been maintained at 4p, making 6p for the year.

About 40 per cent of the group's turnover was overseas with a significant proportion in West Germany. The group's shares rose 1p to 61p.

Hoechst has interim fall

PRE-TAX profits for the first six months of 1990 at Hoechst, the West German chemical group, fell to DM1.82 billion from DM2.10 billion in the same period last year. Hoechst said in a letter to shareholders: "We expect no considerable changes in the development of our business in the next few months." First-half turnover fell 2.2 per cent to DM22.43 billion.

Peek rises to £6.03m

PEEK, the electronics group, had a 3.2 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £6.03 million for the six months to end-June. Sales were almost unchanged at £35 million, while earnings per share advanced 4 per cent to 3.98p. From last year's 3.83p, interest receivable fell from £1.16 million to £714,000. The interim dividend is 5 per cent ahead at 1.05p.

Provident soars 13%

PROVIDENT Financial Group, the Bradford consumer finance company, has announced an "encouraging" 13 per cent rise in taxable profits to £10.47 million for the six months to end-June on turnover up 13.3 per cent to £145.25 million. Earnings per share increased 12.6 per cent to 8p. The interim dividend is 8p (7p).

The company said its Provident Personal Credit subsidiary had benefited from specialising in serving the non-homeowning sector which was "less affected by high interest rates than customers of most other finance houses".

Change of name for trim EHP

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

EUROPEAN Home Products, the retail group is celebrating its financial rehabilitation with a change of name. EHP will be called Scholl Plc. It disposed of the Singer sewing machine distribution business earlier this year.

Scholl foot care products now account for 80 per cent of EHP's business. In addition, it has a cosmetics company in France and licensing agreements for a range of personal care products.

The group made pre-tax profits of £11.5 million for the six months to end-June, down from £17.1 million. But last year's figure was boosted by £10.4 million from the sale of the Scholl factory and warehouse in London. Sales fell from £188 million to £87.3 million. There is an extraordinary credit of £3.29 million from disposals. Earnings per share fell from 16.3p to 10.3p. The interim dividend is unchanged at 2.5p. EHP shares rose 3p to 134p.

Psion hit by modem business

By ANGELA MACKAY

A POOR performance by its modem business and rising overheads cut interim pre-tax profits at Psion, the electronics group specialising in mobile computers, from £1.6 million to £114,000.

Shares in the company dropped to a low of 59p before recovering to finish at 69p. Two months ago, the company issued a profits warning which caused the shares to fall 35p to 90p.

Dacon, maker of a sophisticated modem, was bought by Psion for £4.5 million two years ago, but, in spite of major changes, lost £550,000 in the half and turnover was 44 per cent lower.

Costs rose within Psion itself to support the company's new range. David Potter, chairman and managing director, said he expected "a significant advance in sales during the second half". Overall, turnover rose 8.4 per cent to £15.4 million. The interim dividend was steady at 1p.

INTERIM RESULTS 1990

- All five of IMI's business areas achieved increased profits in first half of 1990 compared with the same period in 1989.
- Total IMI pre-tax profits for first half year 1990 rose to £63.5m compared with £60.1m in 1989.
- Earnings per share improved to 12.8p (from 12.1p) and an increase in interim dividend to 4.2p per share (from 3.8p) reflect these results.

"... we continue to place great emphasis on a strong balance sheet and, with a well diversified and geographically spread product portfolio, we remain in good shape to maintain IMI's progress."

Sir Eric Pountain, Chairman

IMI

FLUID POWER • DRINKS DISPENSE • BUILDING PRODUCTS • SPECIAL ENGINEERING • REFINED AND WROUGHT METALS

COMPANY BRIEFS

PORVAIN (Int)
Pre-tax: £0.6m (£0.4m)
EPS: 4.9p (3.3p)
Div: 1.0p (0.9p)

The first half year is described by the board as encouraging and a satisfactory result is expected for the full year.

LAMBERT HOWARTH (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.2m (£0.7m)
EPS: 18.4p (9p)
Div: 3.8p (3.0p)

Trading in the second half year remains good but the second-half improvement will not be so great because of seasonal factors.

ROPMER (Int)
Pre-tax: £5.0m (£2.9m)
EPS: 7.7p (7.0p)
Div: 3.5p (3.0p)

The company also enjoyed an extraordinary profit of £2.45 million on the sale of two vessels.

DELANEY GROUP (Int)
Pre-tax: £0.5m loss
EPS: 2.4p loss (0.7p)
Div: Nil (1.3p)

Loss compares with a profit of £329,000 last year. A better second half is expected because of seasonal factors.

OSPREY COMM.
Pre-tax: £1.6m (£1.1m)
EPS: 8.38p (9.85p)
Div: 4.35p (3.8p)

Final results: The prospects for the current year are described as encouraging. Record profits are expected.

SHORCO GROUP (Int)
Pre-tax: £0.4m (£0.4m)
EPS: 9.1p (9.7p)
Div: 2.4p (2.0p)

Company does not expect second half to show any improvement on the first because of conditions in the construction industry.

EFT GROUP (Int)
Pre-tax: £0.4m (£0.7m)
EPS: 0.07p (1.62p)
Div: 0.3p (0.3p)

Full-time profits are predicted to be lower than last year's but are still expected to be "reasonable" in the second half.

DUNTON GROUP (Int)
Pre-tax: £184,000 loss
EPS: 0.70p loss (3.56p)
Div: 0.48p (1.0p)

Loss compares with a profit of £1.1 million last year. The board is "cautious" about the short-term outlook.

PARAMBE (Int)
Pre-tax: £21,000
EPS: 0.66p (0.21p)
Div: 0.55p (0.5p)

Profit compares with one of £19,000 in the previous half-year. Net asset value per share was 79.0p (82.2p).

KINGSPAN (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.7m (£1.25m)
EPS: 5.72p (4.58p)
Div: 1p (nil)

Figures are in Irish currency. Company says that it is well placed for growth in the remainder of the current year.

Welcome mats have been few and far between for companies wishing to invest directly in Japan. Obstacles, both direct and indirect, have been placed across the paths of those wishing to buy, and while joint ventures and minority shareholdings are now not particularly unusual, full takeovers of Japanese companies are still rare.

In part, this is the result of the high valuations placed on Japanese companies by the markets. Despite the sharp fall in the Tokyo market, which began before the Gulf crisis and has accelerated during it, price-earnings ratios are still high enough to bring a tear to the eye of any British company looking to the London market for equity finance. Japanese institutions are chock-full of cash and, given that profits for corporate Japan are still rising while those of European companies are under pressure, Tokyo equity prices are likely to stay ahead of Western markets.

The imbalance between investment in Japanese companies by foreign companies and vice versa is 24 to one. In the year to March 31 this year, according to Japanese figures, foreign investment in Japanese companies totalled only \$2.8 billion. Direct investment overseas by Japanese companies was \$67.5 billion.

This imbalance has finally come to the attention of the Tokyo authorities, and there is to be a mission to Europe to encourage direct investment in Japanese companies, an apparent reversal of the traditional stance.

The roadshow will visit London, Rome and Brussels and will hold seminars for manufacturers, banks and management consultants to explain Japanese markets, soft loan schemes and other measures to attract foreign firms, according to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

In part, the move to correct the imbalance stems from the need for Japan to boost imports, and foreign owned firms do tend to be importers. But equally, it looks as

Japan spreads a corporate zabuton

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

If the Japanese have realised that if their own companies are to be allowed to continue to buy up chunks of corporate Europe, they had better allow easier access to their own crown jewels.

CBI initiative

London's gilt-edged and currency dealers have transfixed themselves on the idea that John Major will fix sterling against the mark in the exchange-rate mechanism over the coming weekend to coincide with the European Community finance ministers' meeting and upstage the party conferences. If this eccentric political move is made, the Confederation of British

Industry's economic team would, of necessity, have its wish that the pound should go in at near DM3 rather than DM2.60, which is nearer the average real exchange rate over the past few years, or DM2.75, around which it traded for much of this year.

Many of the CBI's more prominent manufacturing members, who will not formally be asked to endorse the plan to beat inflation, might take a different view.

Entry at a high level would either knock out a lot of chemical, building materials and engineering plants permanently or force a humiliating devaluation later on, which would certainly not help exorcise Britain's inflation psychology.

The economists, with the approval of Sir Brian Corby, the CBI president, have chosen a painful approach to the enduring inflation problem. They advocate a prolonged semi-recession in home demand, backed up by high interest rates, and countenance higher personal tax rates if needed to keep fiscal policy tight.

The proposed campaign for stable prices is none the less a brave contribution to the economic debate and will surely influence the manifestos of both political parties. The CBI has not been famed in the past for demanding a hard line when its members are suffering more by the week.

The walking wounded are daily emerging from their corporate trenches, and as the reporting season gets into its stride, profits warnings will hang heavy in the autumn air.

Fixing the pound at a level that would cause a short-term shock

owes less to common sense than to a desire for early ERM entry, which would have to be at near today's interest rates. Removing the devaluation option is, by contrast, a vital part of any long-term policy to cut inflation permanently to the levels now enjoyed in West Germany, the Netherlands and France.

The weak link in the programme lies in the mainly vague measures to increase the flexibility of the labour market. Most of the changes in the law which were supposed to achieve this have been made, without noticeable effect.

If pay bargainers need to cure themselves of inflation psychology, industry also needs to wean itself from an implicit reliance on a pool of cheap new labour for expansion.

Immigration, the school-leaver bulge and higher participation rates have all run their course. West Germany can look East, but Britain needs to plan well ahead to achieve long-term price stability. At present, there is little evidence that the problem is being addressed with any urgency.

Stalking the City jungle in search of elusive ethics



Seeking standards: Rosamund Thomas in Cambridge

WHEN three pale and nervous businessmen were led off to jail last week after the Guinness trial, debate started once again on the apparently poor state of ethical behaviour in the City.

The convictions of Ernest Saunders, Gerald Ronson, Anthony Parmes and Sir Jack Lyons, who is yet to be sentenced, caused some commentators to suggest that determining what is ethical behaviour is hard to pin down in the midst of a fast-moving, expensive and competitive takeover.

With two more trials, Blue Arrow and the second Guinness action, scheduled to start next year, the City will not be allowed to let the issue rest.

Business has been trying to avoid re-regulation in favour of self-regulation but just what sort of objective standards can the City be reasonably expected to uphold?

The Centre for Business and Public Sector Ethics in Cambridge has been pondering this question since its inception two years ago.

Headed by Rosamund Thomas, the centre has a mandate to "reinforce the British tradition of high standards in business and public life, principally by research into these subjects."

This "British tradition" has been battered repeatedly since the South Sea Bubble Company burst 270 years ago.

Financial scandals are difficult for the man on the Clapham omnibus to understand and sympathy for the defendant is hard to conjure up when the amounts involved are often beyond comprehension.

Moreover, it is often the small investor who is cheated mercilessly, either directly as in the Barlow Clowes affair, or indirectly in the completed Guinness case, where shareholders were manipulated via the stock market.

"The Guinness convictions could not be called a triumph for ethics, only the legal system," Dr Thomas said.

"The case, however, gives an opportunity for desperate ethical practice in the country to consolidate. New legisla-

tion ahead of Big Bang, such as the Financial Services Act, needs to be supported by ethical practices because laws are coercive and not designed to change motivation."

In its sponsorship brochure, the centre, which is affiliated to the university in Cambridge and has corporate sponsors such as National Westminster Bank, British Gas, Cadbury Schweppes and the Confederation of British Industry, says the law and codes of conduct often lag behind change in business practice

and their employer. However, a successful deal will usually end in a large bonus at the end of the year.

Dr Thomas and her colleagues believe one of the problems is that ethics is considered to be "airy fairy". To counter this, the centre is committed to rigorous analysis and professional approach to the study of cases such as Guinness and Blue Arrow which should produce research and conclusions that companies may use as a basis for training programmes.

The Watergate scandal in Washington in the Seventies triggered a search for moral and ethical practice in the American public sector. This is spreading now to the corporate sphere after such high profile fraud cases as the conviction of Ivan Boesky, the arbitrageur, and Robert Milken, the junk bond trader from Drexel Burnham Lambert.

John Shad, who until 1987 was chairman of the American Securities and Exchange Commission, is a well-known supporter of research into business ethics, investing millions of dollars of his own money into studies as well as speaking widely on the subject.

Recently he said he had been "distressed by the many recent graduates of leading business and law schools, *phi beta kappa*, Rhodes scholars, the cream of the crop, who have been convicted for insider trading."

Mr Shad said: "They are today felons serving time in prison."

"Historically, the leading graduate schools have certified that their graduates have mastered the fundamentals of their professions but I believe they should also aspire to certifying that their graduates have the character and integrity to use the knowledge gained for the benefit, rather than the abuse, of society."

But more specialised training may simply nurture a more sophisticated level of corruption rather than foster a notion that to achieve, means doing so ethically.

ANGELA MACKAY

Trying harder at Bowater

IT WAS hard for Bowater to see its share price clipped sharply after an impressive trading performance in the past six months, especially when shareholders were spared the second half warning that accompanied other trading statements yesterday.

But then the share price has outperformed the market by more than 30 per cent over the period, and it was not a good day for the market generally.

There was, too, a spot of downgrading by the analysts, who are fretting over the disappointing result from Australia, where the recession and delays in putting new equipment into production has halved original expectations of a £10 million profit this year.

Bowater's highly regarded management, which has taken what corrective action it can and is now prepared to sit it out, otherwise justified its star rating by squeezing almost two full points out of its operating margins, at 8.1 per cent.

The team was even able to wring a better return out of the Norton Opax purchase, whose first time contribution was somewhat overshadowed by the resultant surge in the interest bill, from £4 million to £11.5 million.

Last May's rights issue and the subsequent sale of Crossley Builders Merchants have since returned gearing levels

to respectability, from 131 per cent to 33 per cent, and by the year-end it should be back to about 27 per cent.

The interest charge will drop just as dramatically in the second half, but it is still difficult to see Bowater making much more than £120 million for the full year, given the static nature of its marketplace at present.

On full dilution, this would mean only a fractional improvement in earnings to about 54.6p, suggesting a price/earnings ratio of 8.9. This seems fair enough.

Sedgwick

THE near-10 per cent fall in Sedgwick's share price yesterday was perhaps overdue. The figures themselves, showing pre-tax profits up 3 per cent at £67.7 million, were no real surprise. Rather, it was the depressingly cautious statement on the outlook for North American rates that the market did not like.

Followers of the sector have been anticipating a hardening in North American premium rates since the spate of environmental and industrial disasters of the late Eighties. These hopes pushed the sector to p/e ratios in the mid-30s less than a year ago. But for a market suffering from the level of over-capacity that currently exists in North American insurance, only a

major shakeout would translate those hopes into firmer rates. In the meantime, Sedgwick is right to warn the market to expect hard times for a while yet.

Elsewhere, Sedgwick has much to be pleased with. Revenue from British retail advanced a respectable 20 per cent and continental Europe grew by a creditable 7 per cent. Continuing staff reductions have held back expenses growth to 5 per cent, giving Sedgwick a low-cost platform for growth when the years of famine come to an end. That is not likely to be this year however, and analysts have cut back their forecasts for the full year to below £90 million, translating into a prospective multiple of about 14 times earnings.

After that, it is all a question of timing. If the North American shakeout comes in 1991, Sedgwick will be well placed to benefit. Any longer, and the shares will, at best, mark time.

IMI

IMI is frank in talking about the good and the bad, and although caution about the second half cost the company 8p on the share price and led to a year-end profits downgrade, IMI still deserves to retain its following.

Interim pre-tax profits of £63.5 million, against £60.1

million, show an overall margin improvement to 11.6 per cent, with returns on only two out of five divisions slipping slightly.

Nervousness has followed some order and business weakness in the second quarter, which may not be easy to arrest, but IMI's success in Continental Europe – and in West Germany in particular – is making up much of the ground lost in America and Britain. Titanium interests continue to benefit from strong markets.

Building products could find the second half tough, and the fluid power operations will struggle while American and British economies remain weak.

Year-end estimates have been trimmed from £133 million to £129 million, which will stand against the actual £125 million seen in 1989, but at least that will still be growth against the trend.

While many other engineering concerns are merely holding interim payments, IMI is raising its dividend from 3.8p to 4.2p a share. The balance sheet remains strong, with gearing only a few points higher at 8 per cent, and there has been no pain on the bad debt front.

The prospective p/e of 7.9, backed by a 6.9 per cent yield, gives the shares appeal for portfolios with the longer term in mind.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Personal touch

ELIZABETH Sullivan, the second woman admitted to the floor of the Stock Exchange, is moving on. One of the best-known and most flamboyant women in the Square Mile, Sullivan, aged 38, who suffered the nickname *Sweaty Betty* during her days as a dealer on the stock market floor, was almost unbeatable when she gave up stockbroking to become a recruitment consultant two years ago. Now she is branching out on her own, with the creation of Elizabeth Sullivan Associates, based at "the best end" of Southwark Street and backed by more than a dozen highly placed City individuals. "They are terrified of giving their names," says Sullivan coyly, "because they have all done it on their personal accounts." However, she is confident that their involvement will not only prove a sound investment, but will guarantee her "head bunting" work from almost every leading securities house. Her office, open for business this week, is opposite the firm of Keith Bayley Rogers where she worked for 18 years. "I was a senior dealer, dealing mostly for Murrough O'Brien, whose clients included Maxwell Joseph," she recalls.

Changing teams

JEREMY Clegg, sports-mad head of pensions marketing at Baring Investment Management, has joined Henderson

Pension Fund Management as a director. And Clegg, aged 42, who spent four years at Barings, is following in the footsteps of Colin Day, now chairman of IIPFM, who held a similar position with the firm in the late Seventies. "I am keen to improve links with clients," says Clegg, who left Barings at the end of July and has spent the past month playing golf and umpiring cricket matches – in between bouts of gardening at his home in Winchester, Hampshire.

SIGN outside a church in Bristol: "We are soul agents."

Pandora's boxes

TO MILLIONS of football followers, it might be "lucky" Arsenal, but to corporate occupants of the Gunners' executive boxes, the north London club is proving to be anything but a good luck charm.



"It looks like ERM fever."

Among the box holders listed in the programme for last weekend's match against Spurs were Parkfield Group and British & Commonwealth Holdings, both now in administrative receivership. According to Parkfield administrator Michael Jordan, of Cork Gully – a Derby County fan himself – the nine-year lease on the box is now up for sale for £100,000, but it has yet to find any takers. It stood empty on Saturday. Meanwhile, fears that Arsenal would have to join the list of Parkfield creditors because of an unpaid drinks and entertainments bill, accrued last season, were allayed by Ken Friar, the club's managing director. "The bill has since been settled," he said. "There is no amount outstanding." The source of this payment remains a mystery to Jordan, however. "That comes as news to me," he retorted. Meanwhile, the club also seems to have escaped unscathed from the British & Commonwealth débacle as its box was paid for and has now been assigned to another company. Just as well. Judging by its performance on Saturday, Arsenal is going to need all the help it can receive.

Bong gone

PAUSE for thought today, and reflect with sadness on the death of an iron ore mine in Liberia. Amid the confusion and turmoil of a civil war in Liberia, Bong Mining Company says it has had to declare *force majeure* on its contracts, has stopped mining, process-

ing and shipping operations, and has now completed the evacuation of its expatriate employees. Bong had operated the mine since 1967. In a touching variation of the plea "Would the last one out please turn off the lights", Bong Mining has instructed a number of Liberian employees to attempt to preserve plant and equipment and "to provide electric and water supplies and medical services within Bong Town in the interests of the people of Liberia". Who said mining companies have no heart?

Pressed for time

A NEW fashion craze sweeping the City is likely to find little favour in the genteel quarters of Jermyn Street, where the likes of Turnbull & Asser still reign. For Shirt Point, the laundry and dry cleaning service run by William Holt and Jeremy Wayne, has noticed a surprising increase in the number of casual polo shirts brought in for cleaning. "More people seem to have been playing squash in the hot weather," says Holt, aged 24, who adds that Ralph Lauren is especially popular with American brokers. And customers seem to be growing more careless about the contents of their pockets, sending everything from air tickets, casino chips and £20 notes with the linen. "We are not in the habit of laundering money," adds Holt, who insists the valuables are returned to their owners.

CAROL LEONARD

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The prices in this section refer to Monday's trading

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The prices in this section refer to Monday's trading

Platinum per fix: \$483.90 (£257.70)
Palladium per fix: \$1111.30 (£599.00)
Spot Silver: \$4.74-4.76 (£2.53-2.54)

The prices in this section refer to Monday's trading

Year	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2445	2446	2447	2448	2449	2450	2451	2452	2453	2454	2455	2456	2457	2458	2459	2460	2461	2462	2463	2464	2465	2466	2467	2468	2469	2470	2471	2472	2473	2474	2475	2476	2477	2478	2479	2480	2481	2482	2483	2484	2485	2486	2487	2488	2489	2490	2491	2492	2493	2494	2495	2496	2497	2498	2499	2500	2501	2502	2503	2504	2505	2506	2507	2508	2509	2510	2511	2512	2513	2514	2515	2516	2517	2518	2519	2520	2521	2522	2523	2524	2525	2526	2527	2528	2529	2530	2531	2532	2533	2534	2535	2536	2537	2538	2539	2540	2541	2542	2543	2544	2545	2546	2547	2548	2549	2550	2551	2552	2553	2554	2555	2556	2557	2558	2559	2560	2561	2562	2563	2564	2565	2566	2567	2568	2569	2570	2571	2572	2573	2574	2575	2576	2577	2578	2579	2580	2581	2582	2583	2584	2585	2586	2587	2588	2589	2590	2591	2592	2593	2594	2595	2596	2597	2598	2599	2600	2601	2602	2603	2604	2605	2606	2607	2608	2609	2610	2611	2612	2613	2614	2615	2616	2617	2618	2619	2620	2621	2622	2623	2624	2625	2626	2627	2628	2629	2630	2631	2632	2633	2634	2635	2636	2637	2638	2639	2640	2641	2642	2643	2644	2645	2646	2647	2648	2649	2650	2651	2652	2653	2654	2655	2656	2657	2658	2659	2660	2661	2662	2663	2664	2665	2666	2667	2668	2669	2670	2671	2672	2673	2674	2675	2676	2677	2678	2679	2680	2681	2682	2683	2684	2685	2686	2687	2688	2689	2690	2691	2692	2693	2694	2695	2696	2697	2698	2699	2700	2701	2702	2703	2704	2705	2706	2707	2708	2709	2710	2711	2712	2713	2714	2715	2716	2717	2718	2719	2720	2721	2722	2723	2724	2725	2726	2727	2728	2729	2730	2731	2732	2733	2734	2735	2736	2737	2738	2739	2740	2741	2742	2743	2744	2745	2746	2747	2748	2749	2750	2751	2752	2753	2754	2755	2756	2757	2758	2759	2760	2761	2762	2763	2764	2765	2766	2767	2768	2769	2770	2771	2772	2773	2774	2775	2776	2777	2778	2779	2780	2781	2782	2783	2784	2785	2786	2787	2788	2789	2790	2791	2792	2793	2794	2795	2796	2797	2798	2799	2800	2801	2802	2803	2804	2805	2806	2807	2808	2809	2810	2811	2812	2813	2814	2815	2816	2817	2818	2819	2820	2821	2822	2823	2824	2825	2826	2827	2828	2829	2830	2831	2832	2833	2834	2835	2836	2837	2838	2839	2840	2841	2842	2843	2844	2845	2846	2847	2848	2849	2850	2851	2852	2853	2854	2855	2856	2857	2858	2859	2860	2861	2862	2863	2864	2865	2866	2867	2868	2869	2870	2871	2872	2873	2874	2875	2876	2877	2878	2879	2880	2881	2882	2883	2884	2885	2886	2887	2888	2889	2890	2891	2892	2893	2894	2895	2896	2897	2898	2899	2900	2901	2902	2903	2904	2905	2906	2907	2908	2909	2910	2911	2912	2913	2914	2915	2916	2917	2918	2919	2920	2921	2922	2923	2924	2925	2926	2927	2928	2929	2930	2931	2932	2933	2934	2935	2936	2937	2938	2939	2940	2941	2942	2943	2944	2945	2946	2947	2948	2949	2950	2951	2952	2953	2954	2955	2956	2957	2958	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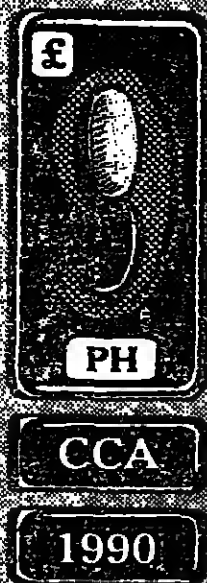
100	W. Vietnam	225	225	55	24
176	Laos	205	205		
182	Myanmar	20	20		26.4
159	U.S. G. I. G.	19	21		9.5
3	East Germany	8	10		
203	China	590	585	+3	163
130	U.S. Latin	18	14	+4	172
22	Manitoba	40	47	+7	35.5
176	N. Vietnam	174	176		
18	U.S. South Pacific	28	29		0.8
17	Om. Search	28	29		
44	Poland	42	42		17
44	Poland	42	42		10
94	Portugal	0	89	+2	58.7
403	France	390	410		
338	Japan	352	390	+5	
403	France	390	410		
424	Spain	405	405	+1	24.5
226	South Africa	212	215	+1	50
100	U.S. S-P	100	100		
100	U.S. Ecuador	100	100		
217	U.S. India	206	204	-2	12.7
217	U.S. India	206	204	-2	13.5

230	Angon Water	229	230	204	55	5.5
271	Northampton	230	210	214	30	20
114	North West	217	210	210	38	49
189	South East	207	210	214	25	1.7
191	South West	198	205	200	100	43
230	South West	205	210	212	12	3.4
230	Thames Water	234	227	194	80	40
230	Thames Water	234	227	204	80	40
230	Wessex Water	210	214	203	56	5.2
210	Yorkshire Water	230	234	208	63	5.6
230	Yorkshire Water	210	214	208	63	5.6

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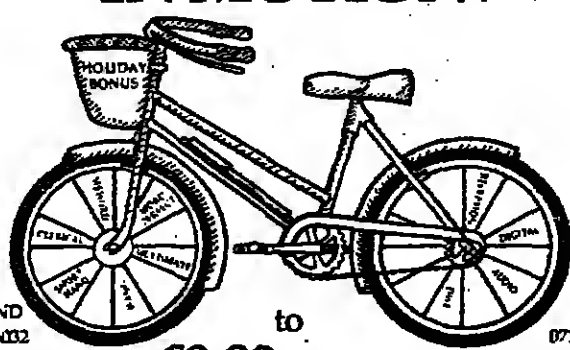
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Continued from page 15

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Remuneration: £10,500

(For sales achievements bonuses may be paid).

Write for further information and an application form to:
The National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road,
London SW3 4HT or phone 071 730 0717. X205



MEDICAL PR

Magellan Medical Communications is a new style, rapidly expanding PR Consultancy poised for major impact.

We now require two experienced, committed individuals from a medical/pharmaceutical background; team players with powerful organisational skills and a sense of humour.

ACCOUNT MANAGER

Tel: £25,000 + Profit Share, Car and Health Scheme

You will be a creative, proactive and enthusiastic individual, who is able to persuade and enthuse others through your excellent interpersonal and communication skills. You will be capable of handling a wide range of tasks simultaneously, achieving strategic and tactical goals within time and budgetary constraints.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Tel: £20,000 + Profit Share and Health Scheme

You will possess excellent interpersonal, creative and communications skills. In addition you will need to display a powerful initiative and meticulous attention to detail. You will be used to the responsibility of working on multiple tasks simultaneously, whilst achieving both short and long term objectives and deadlines.

If you feel you have the right skills and want to share in the opportunities offered by our company, please write, with full CV, to:

Mr. David Draper
Magellan Medical Communications
40-41 Ockley Street
London NW1 3ND

MAGELLAN
MEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
- DOCKLANDS

We are an expanding public relations consultancy based in the heart of London's newest business community.

A vacancy has arisen for an experienced consultant to be responsible for the day-to-day management of an interesting portfolio of business accounts.

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a high level of professionalism, enthusiasm and creativity and should be looking for a career move which will offer new challenges and opportunities for personal development.

In return we are offering a competitive salary plus company car and PPP.

Please send your CV to Angela Kenny, The Practice,
12 Beaufort Court, Admirals Way, South Quay, London E14 9HS
TELEPHONE: 071-538 4334

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Droopy & Browns are a highly specialised and creative company, retailing our exclusive collection of day, evening and bridal wear from a group of individual shops, sited in historic cities throughout the United Kingdom.

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Applications in writing to:

Mrs C Callaghan
Droopy & Browns LTD
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London WC2N 4AZ
or telephone Mrs C Callaghan or Mr P Borsari on 071 378 4515
Between 10am and 12 noon
(no Agencies)

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PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER
ATTRACTIVE ST. ALBANS
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YHA aims to allow young people the opportunity to travel widely and economically and to benefit from experience gained. To this end the Association now offers a wide choice of accommodation and holiday activity packages in some of the most beautiful locations in England and Wales.

We wish to recruit an enthusiastic PRO to join our team. Responsibilities will include creating and implementing a PR campaign to complement the marketing strategy, writing, producing and distributing press information and organising press visits to selected hostels. The PRO will also offer advice and support to Regional Offices and will organise marketing promotions designed to increase membership.

This is a challenging position likely to suit a person with probably four years' PR experience who can communicate well and who enjoys travel and outdoor pursuits. If you feel you have the qualities we require, please write, enclosing a full CV, to:

Terry Rollinson
Personnel Director
Youth Hostels Association
(England & Wales)
8 St Stephens Hill
St Albans
Herts AL1 2DY

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING

A unique opportunity has arisen within Municipal Journal Ltd, the leading local government publishers. Due to the forthcoming re-organisation of our Librarian, a full-time assistant is now required. The varied duties include: considerable editorial work on our annual directory Municipal Year Book, editing the Journal, setting, building and maintaining our information sources and research material, and editorial supervision of our Digest of New Legislation.

The position will suit a mature, organised person who may be considering a career change. Previous publishing or Librarian experience is preferable, but the most essential qualification is a keen interest in local government and the progress of relevant parliamentary legislation.

He or she will be computer literate and able (with training) to cope with IBM/Apple hardware and software.

An attractive salary with the usual benefits is offered to the right person, who will work in our new offices near Finsbury tube.

Apply in writing with full CV to: Karen Rasmussen, Year Book Executive Editor, Municipal Journal Ltd, 32 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 2SS.



Municipal Journal

32 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 2SS
Telephone 071 - 473 6400

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City Colleges

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You will report to the Director of Marketing and play a significant part in developing for the college new business prospects and income generating courses.

Marketing experience is essential for this key job. In addition you will be able to demonstrate a previous track record of marketing achievements and possess excellent presentation skills. N.C.C. Conditions of Service.

Job No.2

Application forms and job descriptions (returnable by 17th September, 1990) from: The Principals Secretary, Bournville College of Further Education, Bristol Road South, Birmingham B31 2AJ. Tel. 021 411 1414.

N.B. Please state number and title of job when making enquiries.

The City Council welcomes applications from all sections of the community irrespective of race, colour, gender, sexuality or disability. Job sharers welcome, no partner necessary.

International
Sales Manager -
Yorkshire
Salary c£25,000

Our Client is a high profile company within the material testing equipment industry. The Sales Manager must have a degree or HNC in business Studies and extensive sales experience in an industrial environment.

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Professional Sales Training and Recruitment Consultants
To apply please call or send CV to us at the address below:

Neil Mansell or Barbara Graham at
PMA (Prime Moves Associates)
The Headline Business Centre,
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Tel: 01234 392222. Fax: 01234 392571.

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Prestigious fine art print publishers require a keen sales exec. To visit existing large client base within UK and to create new clients. Applicants should be dynamic, ambitious and keen to learn all aspects of the business. He/she must be prepared to travel (driving licence essential). Full back up provided. The company is exciting, fun and applicants must be prepared to work within a team atmosphere.

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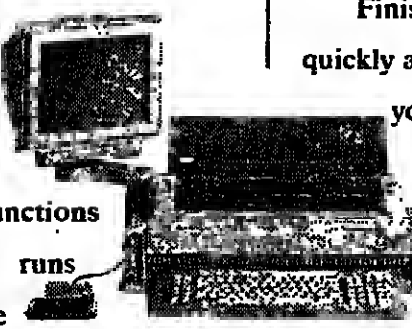
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This is a lovely opening within a small, yet very well known, charitable organisation. Classical music concerts, balls, dress shows, etc. all play a part in their high-profile fund-raising activities. As a fully integrated member of their small, friendly team you will enjoy involvement in all these aspects and share with them the satisfaction of supporting a wholly worthwhile cause. Good secretarial skills (90/50) are a must, as is a flexible, open approach and a willingness to tackle anything and everything. An interest in classical music is desirable but not essential. For further details, please call 071-493 5787.

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Our client is a prestigious international company and a household name here in the UK. As PA to General Manager you will enjoy maximum involvement, attending all meetings, liaising with external advisers (eg. marketing consultants) and supervising departmental budgets. He will use your knowledge of the UK to assist his decision-making and, in return, will look to encourage your interest and awareness of marketing. A high level of commitment is required along with confident secretarial skills. Age 25-30. Languages (European/Japanese) helpful. Graduate education preferred. For details please call 071-493 5787.

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As Personal Assistant to Vice Chancellor who is the University's principal academic and administrative officer, you will have a varied and complex brief. While managing his busy office, you will assist in planning, and organisation, day-to-day correspondence, report drafting, background briefing, and will act as a focal point for contact both within the University and with outside bodies. Judgement, discretion and the ability to work under pressure will be no less essential than a good education, almost certainly to degree level, and developed secretarial skills using the latest office technology.

Salary within the range £14,038 - £18,165 per annum.

For further details and application forms, please contact - quoting reference AS1/8 - The Personnel Officer, The Registry, The University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NE. Closing date for completed applications is 29th September, 1990.

An Equal Opportunities Employer.

PA to Chairman Publishing - £14,000

This is an exceptional opportunity for a confident, self-motivated individual. As PA to Divisional Chairman of this major international publishing house you will work closely on a one-to-one basis, handling Board-level liaison; direct dealings with authors, agents, editors and co-ordination of private/personal affairs. Additionally you will administer company charity budgets and be encouraged to take on the screening of manuscripts etc. Accurate skills (100/60) essential. Literary leanings desirable. Age guide: 20-30 years. Please call today on 071-493 0713.

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MERRYWEATHER

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On the ball, with a real taste for PR? This small, friendly, high-flying team seeks a confident, organised and creative professional to handle reception plus a lot more besides. Reporting directly to a Director you will deal with suppliers, couriers, press cuttings etc. as the hub of a dynamic, fast-moving office. Their clients are some of the biggest, best-known companies in the UK. Have you got the versatility, confidence and enthusiasm to stay in front? Good telephone/reception manner requested. Accurate keyboard skills (30+) essential. To find out more about this unique opening, call 071-409 1232.

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**THE WORK
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We have an immediate vacancy for a secretary to join a small team in a very busy office looking after Corporate membership and the organisation of special events. Accurate typing, a flexible approach, tactful telephone manner and a sense of humour are essential. A knowledge of WordStar would be an advantage.

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Please apply with a full C.V. and contact telephone number to the Personnel Manager, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9DD by Friday September 14th.

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PA to the Director of Finance and Administration £18,000

We are looking for a very well organized and mature person with an excellent secretarial background, practical knowledge of administration in an entrepreneurial environment and experience of current personnel practice.

You must be capable of working on your own initiative and taking responsibility for much of the day to day personnel and general administration of the group, reporting to the Director.

To be successful, you will need to have developed good communication skills and have the ability to establish this new role in a constructive and responsive manner.

To develop a very satisfying career with this successful small financial services group, based in West End, apply to Box Number 1278.

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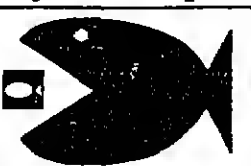
With up to 250 Secretaries and PA's completing their training with us each year and looking for employment, you will not be short of excellent candidates.

We also have a unique client base.

The Consultancy is involved with Permanent and Temporary staff and you will be building a team to take advantage of our very special opportunities.

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At Judy Fisher we hunt only certain species



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Based on the executive floor, you'll be meeting clients, liaising with various staff members, organising refreshments and conference rooms and maintaining a calm and friendly manner at all times. City reception experience is a must, as is the willingness to take advantage of the paid overtime on occasions! Age 22-35. Please telephone Esther Marsden on 071-256 5818.

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Are you a 'People Person' with drive, enthusiasm and who thrives in a competitive environment? We are a leading international personnel consultancy who can offer you first class training, real career development and an excellent salary package.

If you possess a minimum of 5 years commercial experience preferably within a sales/service industry call Amanda Dobbs on 071-734 0911.

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Needs a

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to supervise international travel arrangements, run the office and produce elegant documents for a small team of senior executives. No s/h but w/p skills essential.

Initiative and European travel experience an advantage. Salary £11,500 p.a.

CV to European Communication Management,

9-B Ludbrook Grove, London W11 3BD.

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80 wpm (Canon 830)

Small busy professional office, W1. We need 'A' levels, hard work, good presentation and good all round office experience.

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Working for Chairman and two Directors in small H.O. in SW6. Audio shorthand, WP general accounts knowledge useful. Challenging but varied and responsible job requiring flexibility and enthusiasm. Salary not less than £10,000 but commensurate with experience.

Please send CV to Chairman marked Private and Confidential, Suite 11, 50 Sulway Road, London SW6 3JL.

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World's leading Strategic Consultancy to the legal profession requires an experienced Secretary to organise and run its newly established London office under the direction of one of Europe's principal figures in this field. Will and a mature, efficient, quick and highly professional person 30-50 yrs. Languages an asset, exp German or French (No S/Hand req).

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The man is a powerhouse - tough, demanding and hardworking but then he's got a top job with a major bank in SW1. You will use your initiative and provide a full PA role. You are 25-30, with previous banking experience and 100wpm shorthand. £18,000 + mortgage worth another £6,000 + paid overtime etc.

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You will arrange board and management meetings, prepare the papers and provide a full personal secretary/assistant role to the MD at a major insurance group in the City. Shorthand at 100 is essential and there is lots of audio. Benefits are excellent including a £500 lunch allowance and up to £500 travel subsidy.

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Get involved in projects in the high profile role as PA to the MD of a major insurance firm in SW1. The environment is dynamic and your boss is easygoing but fast. You are 25-30 with both shorthand and audio skills.

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This is it. The exclusive role you've been waiting for. Based in plush Mayfair offices you will be an integral member of this exciting new development within one of the world's most successful communications companies. Dealing on a global basis with the development of cable TV and other related high-tech innovations you will provide an efficient secretarial support role to team of young and ambitious Executives. Flexibility is the keynote to an opening that will provide opportunity, challenge and a financially rewarding future. Please call Katie Douth on 071 481 1888.

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and PRIOR
SOLICITORS

DIBB LUPTON BROOMHEAD & PRIOR. A leading UK firm of Solicitors based in London, Sheffield, Leeds, Manchester and Bromley, is seeking to recruit a WP Supervisor for its London office.

Applicants must have the ability to be able to give WP training to all new staff, have good practical knowledge and experience of hardware and software and be able to liaise with staff on all levels.

This important role in the maintenance and development of our digital dec system will require some out of hours working, commitment and enthusiasm. Please write with CV and current salary to:

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Dibb Lupton Broomhead & Prior,
23-28 Temple Bar House,
Fleet Street,
London EC4Y 1AA.
Telephone 071-936 3333.

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These are excellent opportunities for those capable of more than standard secretarial duties, who are enthusiastic and willing to work for and as part of a team of NCR Marketing Managers. You will enjoy planning your own workload, using your own initiative.

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In this busy and varied role, you will also be responsible for some administration and for communication amongst your team. WP experience is essential, although training will be given on our systems and software, to develop your pc skills further. In addition, knowledge of a European language, and experience of dealing with different nationalities would be a distinct advantage, but is by no means essential.

We offer training, 20 days' holiday, a pension scheme and the chance to develop in a truly cosmopolitan environment. To apply, please write or fax full C.V. to Marina Labi, NCR Europe Limited, 4th Floor, International House, 7 High Street, Ealing, London W5 5DB. Fax: 081-840 0243. NO AGENCIES PLEASE.

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ADVERTISING
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MUSIC MUSIC
MUSIC

Our Client, a brilliant mix of PR, TV and business talent in the music production and promotion industry, is looking for a knowledgeable supportive PA, late 20's-30s with good secretarial skills and administrative experience and involvement in the music industry especially PR and admin. An ideal person keenly interested in music who will quickly identify with his priorities. £16,000

Legal Eagle
£18,000

Influential and respected Partner of a major City legal firm is looking for a true PA.

Commercial conveyancing experience is a must but there is little legal typing. Responsibilities will be two-fold: to run his high-profile professional life and to act as secretarial co-ordinator for the department (c70). Liaison with personnel and fee-earners, floats and secretaries requires diplomacy and exceptional organisational skills. This is the chance to add responsibility to your career if you are 28-40 with good audio/PA skills (don't forget the commercial conveyancing experience).

Please telephone Catherine Ferguson on 071-588 3535.

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The Chairman and Managing Director of a rapidly growing International Medical Group based in Harley Street is seeking a mature, well presented PA to organise their day to day business activities.

A high standard of secretarial skills with audio and shorthand are required. A knowledge and interest in computers would be a distinct advantage. The ideal applicant will be enthusiastic, reliable, numerate and enjoy taking on responsibilities.

Please send CV's to:
The Administration Office, The Harley Medical Group
10 Harley Street, London W1N 1AA

PERSONAL
SECRETARY FOR
MANAGING DIRECTOR

of small company with worldwide market. S/H and enthusiasm essential. Sunbury on Thames.

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Our Client, an International Co. based in Central London is recruiting for an additional personnel assistant within their Personnel Dept. Good organising skills & pay as a Personnel Assistant

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071 256 8674 (Days)
071 954 9423 (After 5pm)
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Public Affairs consultant in Westminster needs a 'thinking' right hand who'll ensure, with humour and accuracy, that the office runs smoothly. You'll have frequent contact with the House and big name clients so a keen interest in politics is as essential as tact and diplomacy. Also essential A's degree, initiative, ability to write & fast accurate typing. 10 am start. Age 25-40.

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Chairman's office of an organisation needs a PR secretary to join a happy, high calibre, highly motivated team. You'll be in daily contact with the upper echelons of the firm and with the press so savoir-faire, maturity, complete discretion and deadly accuracy are 'musts'. This is a busy, demanding role offering variety and responsibility - ability to 'juggle' tacitly essential. Starts 9/10 needed. Age 25-40.

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Scotland invaded by safe-bet sports

Without clutching a rabbit's foot, it may be unwise to report that at least one area of the property market is enjoying a boom. Sport is serious business, not least in Scotland where shooting, fishing and stalking estates are changing hands for millions of pounds and demand is far out-running supply.

Andrew Kettle, a partner at the agents Strutt & Parker, says a mixed Highland estate of about 10,000 acres with a six-bedroom lodge, three cottages, a driven grouse moor averaging 400 brace, a single-bank beat of salmon fishing averaging 100 fish, a deer forest with 20 stags and a small farm with 750 ewes, which would have cost £715,000 in 1985, would now be selling for £2,540,000 — an increase of 353 per cent.

Grouse declined in the Highlands in the post-war years, but numbers have been increasing recently and, over 15 years, the value of grouse shooting as an asset has increased by 300 per cent. Stalking has increased by 416 per cent and salmon fishing by 375 per cent.

Mr Kettle provides a further statistic which shows the potential of the market. Most buyers in 1989 and the first half of 1990 came from London, the southeast, England or western Europe, and while many of the English buyers were businessmen, perhaps buying as companies, western Euro-

pean individuals made up 28 per cent of the total. Consequently, Strutt & Parker is advising sellers of Scottish estates to market them on the Continent.

Allan Macpherson Fletcher, a shooting laird as well as the sporting expert at the agent Hampsons, says that the term "sporting estates" principally means properties north of Perth, although there are grouse moors in the Borders, such as the late Lord Biddulph's 8,000 acres, which sold for well over £4 million.

"The most sought after estates," he says, "are those which are original and intact and have maintained their sport by good management. Access is important, and those within an hour of an airport or close to a mainline station sell at a premium. For sporting estates, however, privacy

and even remoteness have appeal." With the upgrading of Aberdeen and Inverness airports, access and remoteness can now often co-exist comfortably but, since moorland is valued by the brace, good management is still the key, Charles Dent, of the agent Savills, agrees. He feels that a correct ratio of keepers to acreage is vital, with an optimum of one keeper to about 5,000 acres.

Grouse moors let by the day can make £80 per brace shot, and guns may pay £1,000 per day, but sporting estates rarely trade at a profit. However, a number of those now on the market also provide other means of support.

Two of them have hotels. Twelve miles north of Perth, overlooking the River Tay and surrounded by 313 acres of policies and 1,454 acres of in-hand farmland, is Ballathie, a Victorian house which has been turned into a 28-bedroom luxury hotel. As well as 23 farmhouses and cottages, there are two substantial houses, Balmains and Broomhill. There are 23 named pools along 1.25 miles of the Tay and the ten-year average is 641 salmon. There is also a well-established, low-ground shoot. The asking price for Ballathie by Strutt & Parker is £10.5 million-plus as a whole, or lesser sums in four lots.

Another Perthshire property on the market is the 2,800-acre agricultural and sporting Gaslune estate near Blairgowrie, which is



Temptation by the Tay: Ballathie, a 28-bedroom hotel, plus 23 farmhouses and cottages in about 1,700 acres, is for sale at £10.5 million

handled by the agent Smiths Gore, of Edinburgh, as eight lots, or as a whole at more than £560,000. The farm is a limited partnership until September 2000 and there are 569 acres of forestry. The estate covers 9,193 acres and offers of more than £1 million must be with Bidwell's Perth office by noon on September 14.

Further north is Glenrossal, on the Cassley near Rosshall in Sutherland. The lodge is an eight-bedroom baronial affair set above the river. The total acreage is 2,532 and there is mixed sport, including 2.5 miles of single-bank fishing, trout lochs and a burn, stalking of about 2,400 acres, large numbers of sika deer, and walked-up grouse shooting. Savills is asking £900,000 plus.

Until recently, the west was a

mon rights on the River Meig and trout in the hill lochs.

The farm is a limited partnership until September 2000 and there are 569 acres of forestry. The estate covers 9,193 acres and offers of more than £1 million must be with Bidwell's Perth office by noon on September 14.

Until recently, the west was a

culinary desert for those who did not like shellfish or unfinned food. No longer, thanks in part to Robert Irvine's Hydroponicum at Achilube, which produces high quality, sub-tropical and southern English fruit and vegetables in a sub-arctic climate. Mr Irvine handed over the Achilube Hotel to his son a few years ago and is now selling the Hydroponicum, through Bidwell's, for £150,000.

No doubt the purchasers of the Ledmore Estate at Elphin, a few miles away, will cater for themselves, but they will be reassured to know that standards at Achilube have not slipped. Ledmore, on Strutt & Parker's books at £750,000 plus, has about 9,000 acres of the most glorious Sutherland wilderness, a fine site

for a lodge and an unusual variety of sport — red deer, grouse, snipe, duck, brown trout and rabbit. More unusual, the place runs at a modest profit, provided by two fully fish farms, the hiring of boats and venison sales.

Whether the Edwardian baronial pile of Glenborrowdale Castle, on the south side of Ardmurchan over-looking Loch Sunan and the Morvern hills, can be run as a profitable hotel, only time will tell, but Peter de Savary, the entrepreneur, has poured a great deal of money into it since 1987. If not, it would make a luxurious lodge. It comes with 766 acres, a stocked trout loch, moorings and two small offshore islands. The joint agents are Knight Frank & Rutley and John Clegg of Edinburgh. Price, £3.75 million.

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Buckingham results

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Hospital Medical

Postgraduate courses, senior lecturer in skin at United Medical Schools, has been to the new chair of from October 1.

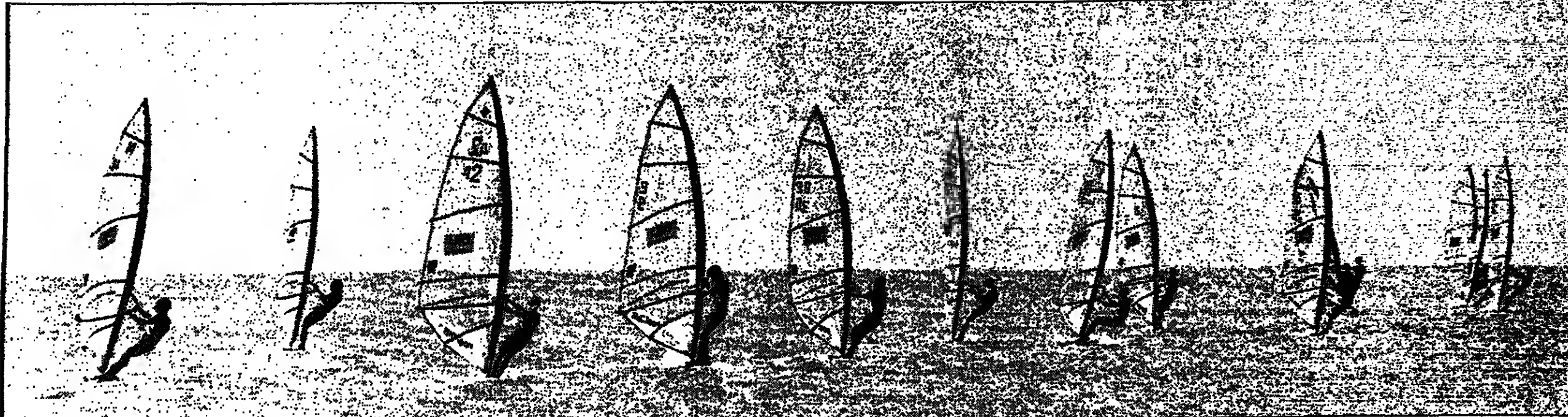
Dr J. Pasvol, Wellcome Research Fellow in clinical medicine at University of Oxford, has been appointed to the new chair of infectious diseases and medicine, based at Park hospital, from October 1.

Dr A. Weber, senior lecturer in infectious diseases at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, has been appointed to the new chair of gastro-intestinal medicine and communicable diseases from January 1 1991.

United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital

Personal chairs: Dr R. D. R. Camp (experimental dermatology); Dr R. A. J. Eady (experimental dermatopathology); Dr S. E. File (psychodermatology); Dr D. G. Graham (clinical rheumatology); Dr A. I. Mallet (analytical chemistry); Dr J. Weinman (psychology as applied to medicine); Dr D. G. Williams (medicine).

Pre-race manoeuvring before the battle for a world board title



Catching a wave and a breeze: Competitors in the world windsurfing championships dominate the seascape off Hastings as they head to the start of an event yesterday

Dispute over overseas players rocks Oxford

By PETER BILLS

OXFORD University Rugby Club is locked in an internal dispute reminiscent of the 1987 Boat Race mutiny. Once again the controversy concerns the question of who should run the club and once again it involves post-graduate students from overseas. The result is that Oxford may play the entire term, including the match against Cambridge in December, without five leading Blues.

The dispute has developed because of a feeling among some members of the club that the influence of overseas players and a coach was becoming too great. Their attempt to reduce that influence failed, due to the protests of a group that included Australian and American players.

Those players, Brian Smith, an Australian and Ireland international, Troy Coker of Australia, two American internationals, Don James and Gary Hein, and another Australian, Morgan Jones, have all been barred from the club's imminent tour of the Far East. Some Oxford players' membership of Vincents' Club (an exclusive club for university sportsmen) have been cancelled, Coker said: "The system felt threatened and it has bitten back hard."

Hein, who played for Oxford in the 1989 University match, said: "It's pretty ironic that some people at Oxford are saying this is another Boat Race, in support of the Americans. The fact is, it was the committee who were trying to seize power by changing the constitution. They are the ones who started all this and we just got together to stop them succeeding. They have caused the mess the Oxford rugby club is in."

Smith, the captain last year,

Jones switches codes

SYDNEY (AP) — Alan Jones, who led Australia's rugby union team to an unbeaten grand slam tour of Britain in 1984, was named yesterday as coach of the Balmoral Tigers rugby league club.

Keith Barnes, the Balmoral chief executive, said that Jones had agreed a one-year contract with the Sydney-based club.

"We had quite a few applicants for the job but we're pleased Alan has decided to venture into rugby league with



Influence resented: Smith (left) and Alan Jones

had brought in the former England international, Peter Wheeler and Clive Woodward, to help with coaching, but just before the University match, called in Alan Jones, the former Australia coach. Jones had been invited to help with coaching in three of the previous four years.

Smith also took some coaching sessions himself last term, something which attracted criticism although Coker said: "Brian was trying to instill a more professional attitude in the club. But that didn't come easily in a club steeped in history and tradition. Toes were stepped upon and the authorities struck back."

Cambridge won the University match 22-13 at Twickenham last December. Mark Egan, an Irishman, was elected the new captain in January. Under his leadership, Oxford lost nine of their ten matches. Because of a tutorial, Smith arrived late for one of the fixtures, a defeat by Combined London Old Boys on January 24, and he was banished by Egan for the rest of the term.

The dispute between Egan

and Barnes said: "There is a battle between changing codes but we feel that, if anyone can make a success of switching, it is Alan."

Under Jones, Australia had a record of 21 wins, two draws and seven defeats, including the 1984 tour and the 1986 Bledisloe Cup victory over New Zealand.

Balmoral made the 1988 and 1989 championship play-off for the Winfield Cup — Australia's leading rugby league competition.



and Smith, a fellow student at St Anne's College, became so heated that both were summoned to a meeting by their college's principal, Dr Clare Palley. She ruled that Egan's decision to banish Smith was too severe and suggested that Smith, should be re-instated. Egan agreed, shaking hands with Smith but he later changed his mind. Smith has since joined Leicester and will not play for Oxford again.

At the annual meeting of the club in May, the committee sought to change the constitution, to weaken the influence of the captain, who is elected by the club's players. Under present rules, a simple majority is required but the committee demanded that a re-vote be changed so that a re-vote would be required if there was less than a five per cent majority. If that were still the case after a second vote, the committee would make the decision.

James, an American international prop forward who is a graduate in law from the University of California, said from his home in the United States this week: "The whole thing was totally undemocratic. The committee was trying to rewrite the constitution and take all the power away from the players. A few of us got organised and alerted the college captains. It was obvious we had the numbers."

However, before a vote was possible, the club's acting president, Dr Alan Taylor, adjourned the meeting which, according to James, he was not allowed to do under the constitution.

James said: "People have lost their friends over a lousy election. It snowballed from there and became a big fight."

As for Alan Jones' presence before the Varsity match, that was resented. But personally I thought it was beneficial and so did the other international players in the Oxford team."

Since the annual meeting, Egan has told Smith's fellow internationals that they would not be included in the first XV in the coming term unless they were prepared to work their way back through the junior teams.

However, the two Americans and Troy Coker all want to play for Oxford again. Coker said: "I would like to, but I would have to say the chances of this happening are fairly low. I think from what I have heard that I would have to come up through the grades and pride would not allow that. It is not realistic in any level of rugby to ask international players to prove themselves alongside 19-year-olds. I am not prepared to do that."

Hein and James were similarly minded, but angry that they had been castigated for their roles in the affair. Hein said: "I very much resent the fact that I was caught up in this. And I am really disappointed with the way Mark Egan has handled my case. I have had a slap in the face which has been entirely unjustified."

Reg Clark, a Blue in 1978-9 and a co-opted member of the present committee takes a different view. He said: "I have been struck by the similarities with the Boat Race story. It is not so much taking over the club but a hard core of people exerting their authority in the club and not taking into account the long-standing traditions. It has been quite an unpleasant business and it has been done behind closed doors. The bitterness has arisen from the last two years' captaincy election campaigns when there was a great deal of dishonesty on both sides."

Egan, the captain, said of the banned Oxford internationals: "We have not closed the door to them. They can come back and play their way through the junior grades if they want. But I am only prepared to play with players who are totally behind me. I don't feel these players have been supportive of me at all."

"It would not be an immense loss if they didn't play for us again. We will get by without them. I would not be disappointed."

Graf, the defending champion and No. 1 seed, took just 53 minutes on the centre court to beat Capriati 6-1, 6-2, and reach the quarter-finals, allowing her just one glimpse of parity early in the second set when the No. 13 seed missed two points to level at 3-3.

Thereafter, all Capriati saw of Graf was her heels. And suddenly, just suddenly, the little girl from Florida, who has filled so many column inches through the year, and

Kelly aims to set up new board

By LOUISE TAYLOR

GRAHAM Kelly, the chief executive of the Football Association, is campaigning to shift its power base from the 92-strong FA Council to a board of directors of ten people.

Kelly said yesterday: "To have major decisions made by an excess of 90 people, with maybe 90 different views, is not the best way forward. A smaller ten-person board would be better able to co-ordinate the wide-reaching and often very detailed affairs of the FA."

"It would be better able to put over the FA point and would earn more respect from the government, commerce and television. We have to confront major issues such as ground safety and improvements in housing, taxation, and television rights."

The FA Council is made up largely of representatives from the county associations, who have the interests of the amateur game at heart. Kelly envisages the ten directors being people involved solely with the professional game. He said: "We would have the chairman and vice-chairman of the FA, the president of the Football League and seven others elected by the council."

Ron Noades, chairman of Crystal Palace and a member of the League management committee, said: "The fact that members of the amateur county associations have a vote at council is an erosion of the power of the professional game. There should be two ruling bodies for football, one for the professional side, and one for the amateur."

"Another problem with the council is the costs of all the perks and privileges of the members. All 92 councillors and their wives were invited to fly out to the World Cup in Italy, staying in five-star hotels, to watch England's semi-final and the third-place play-off match, and around 50 went with their partners. The League is entitled to 25 per cent of the FA's profits from Italia '90, but the money spent on the trip has eroded that money to next to nothing."

With a four-day package to the World Cup finals costing a minimum of about £600 per head, it is fair to assume the council's trip cost the FA around £50,000. The FA's profit from the World Cup has yet to be published, but Glen Kirton, the FA's external affairs officer, said: "We ended up with around £250,000 from Mexico in 1986."

Kelly anticipates difficulties in persuading the council to redraft the FA constitution, especially if there is a threat to the perks they receive in exchange for their efforts at the grass roots of the game. He said: "I aim to counter that by stressing that the council and its committees would remain in place. But a board of directors would be better able to co-ordinate FA affairs as a whole, and earn respect from outside the game."

"Do you have any advice for her?" Graf was asked. "There is not much she can do. Try to be yourself and have the right people around you. Try to have as much fun as you can, but try to get as much away from it as you can," was the reply.

Roughly the same advice came from Tracy Austin. Remember her? She won the US Open in 1979 at the age of 16, and was then forced out of the game with shoulder and back injuries. Her comeback was ended last year when her knee was crushed in a car accident. "Jennifer should get back to school as much as possible. Many players take a tutor out on tour with them, but there is no substitute for getting back among your peers

Mood of optimism over South Africa's return

From DAVID MILLER IN STOCKHOLM

SO OPTIMISTIC are non-white South African sports administrators of an imminent return to the international fold that the National Olympic Sports Congress (NOSC), the body representing non-white interests, has united with the South African National Olympic Committee (Sanroc), the white-originate body, to propose a unified organisation, the National Olympic Confederation of South Africa, which would be there in readiness.

Milek George, the president of NOSC, revealed this yesterday at the fourth International Conference against Apartheid in Sport. His address was forthright, combining the passion of repressed and deprived South Africans with the moderation and maturity of someone eager to link hands magnanimously with the formerly controlling white administrators.

The mood of expectation sweeping through black Africa was evident in the speech of Jean-Claude Ganga, who represents the Congo on the International Olympic Committee and is a radical member of the IOC's anti-apartheid commission. "I dream of organising an African Games in Johannesburg," Ganga said, "as a celebration of African youth." The expression of such a sentiment is equivalent to the Reverend Paisley wishing to give Communion in Dublin.

Yet every African present here — by no means all of them representative of regimes of sweetness and light — is of the same view as Amos George, Joseph Garba, president of the United Nations general assembly, who said poignantly: "We must not give up

[the anti-apartheid movement] just because the finishing line is in sight. We must maintain our position until the pillars of apartheid are brought down."

This view was echoed by Kevan Gosper, an Australian member of the IOC's executive board. He considers that although selective readmission of some South African sports bodies by the relevant international federation would provide an incentive to others, it carries the danger of letting in South African bodies that have not yet done enough towards true integration.

"You can still lose a 400 metres race in the last 20 metres," Gosper said. "The anti-apartheid movement has to keep going until the point at which the IOC can readmit South African sport wholesale. When that happens, it will be to the substantial benefit of the whole of Africa, because Africans will have a sense of real achievement and self-esteem, and it will help draw them more into the international community."

George, saying that he hoped this would be the last anti-apartheid conference before apartheid was finally destroyed, insisted that it would be dangerous to relax and that the sporting boycott should be accelerated, rather than reduced, in a push towards conclusion. "Not all the changes taking place are due to a change of heart," he said, "but it is encouraging that so many whites have a willingness to merge."

There are advanced talks for union of the separate rugby and football bodies, George said, and discussions under way for reformation in tennis and boxing. "The objectives of NOSC are unity,

development and preparation for the post-apartheid era," he said. "It would be invalid to claim that international readmission should be a reward for the existing regime. Our greatest problem continues to be the fragmentation of society caused by apartheid, not just between black and white, but between black and black. The situation is still far from what we require and must be resolved."

Sam Ramsamy, chairman of Sanroc, elaborating on his recent ten-day visit to South Africa to prepare a report for all interested African organisations, political and sporting, said it was not a matter of whether readmission would happen, only when. Sports unity need not itself await the abolition of apartheid, though the shadow of neglect from that regime would remain for a long time after it was abolished.

Ramsamy touched on the issue that is behind so much change across the world: economic forces. "South Africa has abundant resources," he said. "Black Africa, recognising this, does not wish, in killing apartheid, simultaneously to kill by sanction the goose that can lay eggs for the whole continent."

Ramsamy, who is a central figure in this particular sporting revolution, nevertheless managed to contradict himself in the space of a few minutes. His visits after an absence of 18 years had proved, he said, the accuracy of external monitoring. Yet in the next breath he said that the degree to which whites wanted unity had found "extraordinary" There are those who had been attempting to stress this point for some while before Ramsamy's arrival.

Thompson begins comeback

DALEY Thompson took a step along the comeback trail in a specially arranged four-event competition at Crawley yesterday. The former Olympic and world champion came through the test with no reaction to a knee injury which prevented him defending his European and Commonwealth titles this year.

Thompson, aged 32, scored 3,008 points after clocking 11.16sec for the 100 metres, 26.04 for the 200 hurdles, recording 6.57 metres in the

long jump and throwing 57.82 metres in the javelin.

He came second to Brian Taylor, the national champion, who scored 3,090, but did enough to convince Frank Dick that he is on course for a return to the big time in next year's world championships in Tokyo.

Dick, the director of coaching who led Britain to a record medal haul in the European Championships in Split last week, said: "He obviously wanted to win, because when

you are used to success you don't like getting your shins bruised."

"But it was Daley's first real test back and he was a bit rusty. It was expecting too much for him to be 100 per cent. The good news is that the knee was no problem. All he needs now is more competition. It was an important step back on the road to the big one next year."

Thompson has not completed a decathlon since losing his Olympic crown in Seoul two years ago.

Ngugi surprises once again

From DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, KOBLENZ

JOHN Ngugi, the Olympic 5,000 metres champion, failed by the narrowest of margins last night to run the fastest 10,000 metres in the world this year, but had the consolation of moving into sixth place in the all-time rankings. His time, 27min 19.15sec, was only one second slower than Arturo Barrios, of Mexico, ran in Berlin a fortnight ago.

Ngugi, a Kenyan, has shown many times that he is a law unto himself, both by the eccentric way he runs cross-country and his extraordinary attempt to win the Commonwealth 5,000 metres in February, after falling over. On that occasion he went from last to first only to be caught on the line by the Australian, Andrew Lloyd.

Last night, at 5,000 metres, nothing but an ordinary 10,000 metres looked likely. But Ngugi, having been freed of the restriction of his pace-makers, picked up speed after reaching halfway in 13min 51sec, or 27:42 pace.

Had the pacemakers done a

better job, perhaps Barrios's world record of 27min 8.23sec might have been under threat. Volker Welzel, of West Germany, paced the first 2km in 5min 31sec and Ngugi's compatriot, Cheruiyot, took him to 5,000 metres.

Tatyana Ledovskaya was one of eight European champions in action. Ledovskaya ran as she did in Split: a fast first 300m in the 400m hurdles, then it was a case of hoping for the best. Ellen Fiedler, from East Germany, brought Ledovskaya back to within half a second by the finish, 56.05sec to 56.53.

One of the European champions did not even make it to the start. Kris Abakusi, who was supposed to be Britain's sole gold medal-winning representative here, did not arrive. "He did not tell us he was not coming," a spokesman said.

Just over a fortnight ago, Steve Cram was beaten by two teenagers over 1000m at the Pearl Assurance meeting at Gateshead. Jonah Birir, aged

18, from Kenya, and Paul Burgess, 19, from Wigan, renewed their rivalry here, in the 800m, and the result was much the same. The only difference this time is that Burgess, who was second in Gateshead, was fourth, while Birir, the former world junior champion, was first.

For Burgess, the point of travelling all this way was to improve his best time of 1min 47.9sec. The puddles hindered his task, though he will find that being eighth at the bell is no way to make headway at this level. Birir won in 1min 47.21sec, Burgess recording 1min 48.61sec.

Dalton Grant would have enjoyed himself here. A quarter of the way through the programme, a pop group was wheeled on. Last year, Grant equaled the British indoor record at a high-jumping to pop music contest in Wuppertal, West Germany. The women thought little of the idea on this occasion: Yelena Yelagina, of the Soviet Union, won with only 1.94 metres.

Capriati's lesson in Graf's master class

From ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, NEW YORK

LIKE most American children, Jennifer Capriati had an appointment in the classroom yesterday. She had hoped to postpone her return to St Andrews School in Boca Raton, but Steffi Graf, who this week celebrates her 16th week as headmistress of the women's tour, handed out the severest of tutorials at the United States Open tennis championships and Capriati, aged 14, was free to resume life as a schoolgirl.

Graf, the defending champion and No. 1 seed, took just 53 minutes on the centre court to beat Capriati 6-1, 6-2, and reach the quarter-finals, allowing her just one glimpse of parity early in the second set when the No. 13 seed missed two points to level at 3-3.

Thereafter, all Capriati saw of Graf was her heels. And suddenly, just suddenly, the little girl from Florida, who has filled so many column inches through the year, and

who has managed somehow to justify every one of them, looked as vulnerable as a kitten at a big city.

"I didn't realise how nervous I was until I got out there. In the beginning, I couldn't hit a ball on court. I shouldn't be that nervous," she said.

"Do you have any advice for her?" Graf was asked. "There is not much she can do. Try to be yourself and have the right people around you. Try to have as much fun as you can, but try to get as much away from it as you can," was the reply.

Roughly the same advice came from Tracy Austin. Remember her? She won the US Open in 1979 at the age of 16, and was then forced out of the game with shoulder and back injuries. Her comeback was ended last year when her knee was crushed in a car accident. "Jennifer should get back to school as much as possible. Many players take a tutor out on tour with them, but there is no substitute for getting back among your peers

... back to normality," Austin said.

If Capriati's advisers, father Stephano and manager John Evert, are wise, they will listen to those words. It should be enough that their charge has reached No. 13 in the world in her first year on the tour, and is already the richest schoolgirl in America. Unfortunately, I suspect there are countless clauses at the bottom of countless contracts which will rule out Capriati's withdrawal.

"It's been a great year for me," Capriati said, "but sometimes I get tired of all the attention. Sometimes I would just like to say 'no'."

After the excitement of the previous few days, the US Open has now entered its fallow period. While Wimbledon builds up to a slow climax throughout the second week, the tournament here goes under ground for a few days, before building up to a frenetic orgy of tennis over next weekend. Everything has to wait for the CBS cameras, of course, so having played two matches in five days, the

winning semi-finalists have to play twice inside 24 hours.

That could yet prove to be the telling factor, in the men's singles at least. If he manages to beat the improving David Wheaton in the quarter-finals today, you cannot realistically see John McEnroe surviving two tough matches — against, say, Lendl and Becker — in such a short space of time. But McEnroe has benefited as much as anyone from huge television exposure, so he who lives by the sword has to die by it, too. It would be a wonderful story, however, if he managed to defy the laws of average one last time.

At the age of 30, Lendl, who plays Pete Sampras, is no spring chicken. He has just looked after his body rather better than McEnroe, but his record in the finals here is played eight, won three, lost five, so his stamina is not above suspicion. Becker, at 22, and Agassi, at 20, have youth on their side and, after his narrow victory over

Darren Cahill in the fourth round, the defending champion will feel as he did last year, when coming back from match point against Derrick Rostagno in the second round, that his name is written on the trophy. Becker won 2-6, 6-2, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 in just over three hours, but had to scrap and claw his way through the final set. "Sometimes it is good to have five sets. It's tougher for the mind," the champion said.

Andrei Cherkasov reached his second grand slam quarter-final of the year in beating Christo van Rensburg in straight sets, and Aaron Krickstein beat Amos Mansdorf, also in straight sets. So the men's singles quarter-final line-up is: Becker v Krickstein, Agassi v Cherkasov, Lendl v Sampras, and McEnroe v Wheaton. Back in Florida, Capriati should put her dainty feet up, tune in to CBS, and enjoy being normal again.

Results, page 41